

July 1982



ARAB TIMES

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SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 1988

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Amir cancels Ramadan receptions

HH the Amir of Kuwait will not receive well-wishers during the holy month of Ramadan out of respect for victims of the Kuwait Airways hijacking.

He made the decision "out of sympathy for the families of the martyrs and those hijacked on the Kuwaiti airliner and in response to the feelings of citizens and residents alike toward this sad incident."

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah will also not receive well-wishers during Ramadan.

The step was taken in solidarity with the families of the two Kuwaitis killed by the hijackers.

Ramadan begins

THE Ministry of Justice announced last night that the holy month of Ramadan in Kuwait will begin today.

Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, Qatar and Jordan also announced that they will start fasting today.

While Iraq and Oman said that tomorrow will be the first day of Ramadan.

During Ramadan, the last ferry will leave from Kuwait for Failaka at 1 am, and the last ferry from Failaka to Kuwait will start at 1.45 am.

This was announced yesterday by the chairman and managing director of Kuwait Public Transport Company (KPTC), Abdul Wahhab Al Haroun.

The President of the UAE Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan, has pardoned 95 prisoners to mark the month of Ramadan.

Sudanese premier quits

KHARTOUM, April 16. (Reuter): Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq al Mahdi said today he had submitted his resignation to the Supreme Council, a five-man joint presidency.

He told Parliament that he hoped to form a new national unity government by Monday.

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Hijackers demand fuel

Threat to kill all hostages

ALGIERS, April 16. (Agencies): Hijackers holding 31 hostages aboard a Kuwait Airways jumbo jet, declaring "we do not fear death, demanded fuel today so that they could fly out and take their captives outside Algeria. They also threatened to kill all the hostages.

It was the first time the hijackers directly threatened to kill the hostages since landing in Algiers.

On three occasions, passengers have pleaded for their lives in radio messages to the control tower.

HH the Amir of Kuwait tonight phoned Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

The official Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) said HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla told Algerian Prime Minister Abdellahim Brahimi by telephone that the jumbo jet should not be allowed to leave.

"It is important to prevent the plane from leaving the soil of sisterly Algeria and all necessary measures to protect the lives of the innocent hostage passengers on the plane should be taken," said the Amir, quoted Sheikh Saad as telling Brahimi.

The three reporters, one of them a woman, were thoroughly frisked by a hijacker when they reached the top of the steps leading to the plane. Each of the reporters was allowed to ask two questions.

The reporters were not allowed into the aircraft and spent the 17-minute encounter crouching at the top of the steps in the broiling sun. Finally, the plane's door was slammed shut and the trio returned to the tarmac.

Smartly

One of the three, New York Times correspondent Youseff Ibrahim, told hundreds of waiting colleagues the statement was read in classical Arabic with a Levant accent by one of the gunmen. He had every sentence read to him by a companion who was concealed inside the plane.

The men wore light blue masks over their faces and were smartly dressed, he added. They appeared relaxed, despite the strain of having been on the plane for nearly two weeks.

The gunmen have freed a total of 71 passengers, including all Westerners, since they forced the plane to land.

(Continued on Page 4)

Trained in Iran

One air pirate linked to TWA hijacking

NEW YORK, April 16. (Agencies): One of the hijackers of the Kuwaiti jet now in Algiers is believed to be a Lebanese wanted in the United States for 1985 hijacking in which an American Navy diver was killed, the New York Times reported today.

It said US administration officials believe the suspect, identified as Hassan Izz Al Din, is among four men indicted by a federal grand jury in 1985 on charges of air piracy and murder for the hijacking of Trans World Airlines (TWA) flight 847.

They were quoted as saying Izz Al Din could have been directly involved in the murder of Navy diver Robert Dean Stethem, who was badly beaten and shot. The 15-count indictment char-

(Continued on Page 4)

WEATHER

Gulf war will end if arms merchants stop selling weapons

Hijacking well-timed: Sheikh Hamad

By Ahmed Jarallah

THE Bahraini Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa, has said that the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner was well-planned and well-timed. He suggested that it was no coincidence that it occurred at a time when the Iraq-Iran "war of the cities" was escalating and when the Palestinian uprising was intensifying.

In an exclusive interview, the Crown Prince expressed his respect for the Kuwaiti people and

supported the stand taken by its leadership in refusing to give in to the demands of the hijackers.

Sheikh Hamad said: "I believe there are forces behind this well-planned incident, not only in its execution, but in its timing as well." He did not elaborate the forces that he felt influenced or controlled the hijackers' action.

Refuses

He was unequivocal in his opinion of the Iraq-Iran war and said emphatically: "This war can be stopped if the merchants of

arms and weapons want to."

He added: "Some think that Iran refuses to mediate because the war comes to an end it will automatically mean the downfall of the Iranian regime which has failed to fulfil its promises about the war."

He explained that this issue, plus the fact that the war continues to be supported by arms producers make an end to the war unlikely.

Iraq has accepted peace, approved the Security Council resolutions and welcomed regional and international

mediation efforts, he said. "But the war will continue until the Iranian leadership realises the cost of the war and is convinced that there is no reason for it to continue."

The Crown Prince cautioned against thinking of the war as an Iraq-Iran war, or even a Gulf war. "It is rather the war of the whole world, since its influence and effect reach the interests of the world."

He maintains that the failure of countries to anticipate the

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued on Page 4)

Gaza is burning 13 slain in bloodiest day of violence

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, April 16. (Reuter): Israeli troops shot dead 13 Palestinians today in the bloodiest day of a four-month uprising in occupied areas during protests against the killing of top PLO commander Khalil Al Wazir, Arab and UN sources said.

They said eight protesters were killed in the occupied Gaza Strip and five in the West Bank in the highest death toll on any day since the uprising began on Dec 9.

Israeli security sources confirmed eight of the deaths and said they were checking the others.

The 13 deaths, if confirmed, would raise to 156 the number of Palestinians killed in the violence, the worst in more than 20 years of Israeli occupation. Two Israelis have died in the uprising.

Attacks

Israel declined comment on PLO accusations that it was responsible for killing Al Wazir, military deputy to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, in his home in a northern suburb of Tunis overnight.

"We have absolutely no comment," an Army spokeswoman said.

Israel Radio said Al Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, was behind some of the bloodiest commando attacks against Israel, including the hijacking of a civilian bus last month in which three Israelis and three Palestinian gunmen were killed.

PLO spokesman said a Tunisian bodyguard and two Palestinian bodyguards also died in the attack. Reports from PLO sources in Nicosia, that a second commando was involved in the operation, providing cover outside, could not be immediately confirmed.

Al Wazir was the most senior Palestinian official to be assassinated since the founding of the PLO, in 1964. He was PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's closest aide, a member of the PLO executive committee, the No. 2 man in Fatah, and was in charge of military operations inside the occupied territories.



Palestinian officials vowed to intensify the guerrilla war against Israel and the uprising of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

A spokesman in Tunis said the attack was carried out by the "Israeli terrorists of Mossad (the secret service) and their American backers who are determined to liquidate our people."

Bassam Abu Sharif, a top PLO adviser, said in a telephone interview: "Contrary to what the Israeli government thinks, the murder of Abu Jihad will only increase our determination and we shall upgrade both the uprising and military operations to avenge this act of terrorism."

Burst

The PLO said Al Wazir was in the study of his house, reading, when the attackers drove up to the house, killed a Tunisian bodyguard in a car outside, then burst into the house and killed the two other bodyguards.

"They then broke into Abu Jihad's study," said a PLO spokesman who refused to give his name. "Everything happened within seconds. He had drawn his pistol to defend himself but

(Continued on Page 4)

PLO military commander Abu Jihad killed

TUNIS, April 16. (AP): An eight-member assassination squad today shot its way into the home of Khalil Al Wazir, military commander of the PLO, killing him in a hail of machine gun fire as he emerged from his study, the PLO said.

The organisation immediately blamed Israel. It was the second strike at the PLO on Tunisian territory since the movement moved its headquarters to suburban La Marsa after it was driven from Lebanon by the invasion of the Israeli Army in 1982.

The assassination raised the perspective of intensified violence in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where news of the 52-year-old Al Wazir's death led to an eruption of rioting with at least 13 Palestinians shot to death, according to Arab reports.

Vehicles

The PLO said Al Wazir popularly known as Abu Jihad was riddled with more than 100 bullets by the assassination team, which included a woman. No arrests have been made, but Tunisian sources reported that three vehicles possibly used in the I:15 am attack were found on a beach about 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Tunis.

A PLO spokesman said a Tunisian bodyguard and two Palestinian bodyguards also died in the attack. Reports from PLO sources in Nicosia, that a second commando was involved in the operation, providing cover outside, could not be immediately confirmed.

Al Wazir was the most senior Palestinian official to be assassinated since the founding of the PLO, in 1964. He was PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's closest aide, a member of the PLO executive committee, the No. 2 man in Fatah, and was in charge of military operations inside the occupied territories.

Palestinian sources said Mohammed Abu Jazir, 20, from Rafah was also killed by the Army.

Hospital

Hospital officials in the West Bank said three Palestinians were shot dead in Jenin town and a nearby refugee camp. Palestinian sources identified them as Bassam Harari, 23, Hilmie Ibrahim Abdallah, 23, and a 40-year-old woman, Sadaf Abdallah Karawi.

Another woman

Another woman, Halah Awad Amireh, 20, was shot dead in Dead village near Kalkilya, Palestinian and Israeli sources said. A further 10 protesters were wounded by gunfire in the clash including a nine-year-old, shot three times in the face.

Suspected

In the West Bank town of Kableh, where Palestinians lynched and hanged an Arab suspect of collaborating with Israel, 20-year-old Mohyee Kmeil was shot dead during clashes which lasted several hours.

Arab and hospital sources said

A senior UN official said it was

by far the bloodiest day in the Gaza Strip since the start of the uprising.

There is turmoil everywhere.

There are lots of wounded from live ammunition as well as tear gas.

There are curfews on all the

main towns and camps.

"I'm not surprised. Abu Jihad

had Gaza connections," the official said.

One eyewitness said: "There

are burning tyres and smoke

everywhere. It looks as if the

whole Strip is on fire."



(Continued on Page 4)

Al Wazir mourned

NICOSIA, April 16. (Agencies): The Arab world today mourned the death of PLO leader Khalil Al Wazir, who was assassinated last night in Tunis.

George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine issued a statement addressed to the children of the uprising: "The blood of Abu Jihad (Al Wazir's alias) cannot be shed for nothing."

In Lebanon, thousands of Palestinian refugees were in mourning.

Palestinian factions at the Ain El Hilweh and Miye Miye refugee camps announced three

days of mourning and a general strike tomorrow.

Prayers from the Quran echoed across the shanty towns, where most women wore black.

Cars displaying posters of Al Wazir toured the streets of Sidon in south Lebanon.

Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Butros Butros Ghali, said: "We vehemently condemn and regard with extreme shock and repugnance this criminal action against the PLO leadership."</p

INTERNATIONAL

Afghan accord provides no undertaking

Pakistan won't expel rebels

ISLAMABAD, April 16: (Reuters) Pakistan said today it was not bound under a United Nations-mediated settlement to drive out Afghan rebels based in the country.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani told reporters Pakistan had given no such undertaking in the settlement it signed with the Soviet-backed Afghan government on Thursday in Geneva.

The agreement, guaranteed by the United States and the Soviet Union, provides for the withdrawal of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan and return of about three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Notice

The accord says Pakistan and Afghanistan may not harbour or arm individuals or groups "for the purpose of creating subversion, disorder or unrest" in the other country.

Noorani, speaking on return from Geneva where he signed the agreement for Pakistan, said the rebels opposed to the Kabul government were not mercenaries or terrorists but freedom-fighters.

"Have we given any undertaking anywhere in the Geneva agreement that such people would not stay in Pakistan?" he asked.

"So it is a mistaken notion that any such undertaking has been given."

Under the agreement, Soviet troops must withdraw by February 15, 1988, half of them leaving in three months from May 15.

Noorani said he thought all Soviet troops would be out of Afghanistan by the end of the year.

Offer

The agreement neither provides for a ceasefire between the Kabul government and the guerrillas nor bars arms supplies to the warring parties.

Noorani called it a first step towards a comprehensive solution of the Afghan problem.

But he said hostilities would end only after the present Afghan government of Najibullah was replaced by one acceptable to "all segments of the Afghan people."

He said if the Soviet Union

continued supplying arms to the Kabul government, the guerrillas would also have the right to receive arms from abroad.

Meanwhile, Afghan President Najibullah has renewed a peace offer to rebels after the signing of a UN-mediated Geneva settlement providing for an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops to leave his country.

In a message broadcast over the official Kabul Radio last night, he urged the Western-backed guerrillas to end the nine-year-old war and take seats in parliament, after elections were declared over on Thursday.

The guerrillas had rejected earlier Kabul offers to join a coalition government with Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) which they call communists, as well as to contest the elections.

"We are repeating our message to the opponents for the welfare of the people, for the future of our children and for establishing peace," Najibullah said.

"We extend our hand of friend-

ship to you," he told the rebels, who have planned a rally near the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar to declare a formal response to the settlement.

The Pakistan-based main guerrilla alliance had earlier called the elections for a two-chamber parliament, which began on April 5, a gimmick to deceive the Afghans and the world.

Najibullah said seats had been kept vacant for the rebels. "The government is ready to assist those who are against bloodshed," he said.

US officials who helped negotiate the documents which set the stage for the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan believe that the signing will not end the fighting.

The four documents, in which the United States signs as co-guarantor, commits the Soviets to withdraw its troops by February 1989.

One US official said, "It's a lousy legal document, but it serves the practical purpose of permitting the Soviet to withdraw, and so we signed it for that reason. No lawyer likes it."



• About 228,425 pirated cassette tapes, costing \$700,000 are being crushed by a bulldozer in Singapore. The destruction is the fifth since 1984, conducted by the International Federation of Phonogram and Videogram Producers. (Reuter wirephoto)

Deng wishes stability for Philippines

Aquino wins China's support

BEIJING, April 16: (Reuters) Philippine President Corazon Aquino said China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping had pledged the Chinese communist Party's support for her government during their meeting today.

"When I asked Chairman Deng Xiaoping if he would strongly support the Aquino administration, he said indeed he would and he did this in the name of the Communist Party of China," Aquino told a news conference in Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

The 55-year-old President, who has survived five coup attempts since she came to power in 1986, said she was pleased to receive strong support from China's leaders but gave no details of what form this would take.

She described 83-year-old Deng as a man she greatly

admired and "one of the great figures of this century."

Deng launched China onto the road of reform in 1978 after surviving two periods in political exile. He holds the powerful post of chairman of the party's central military commission.

Reporters present during the first few minutes of their meeting said Deng told Aquino he was confident she would achieve full stability in the Philippines.

Aquino also told the news conference she and Deng had agreed to set aside temporarily their dispute over sovereignty of the Spratly islands in the South China Sea.

Meanwhile, troops raided the suspected hideout of the fugitive leader of an August coup attempt hours after capturing 10 of his followers nearby, the military said today.

Former Lieut. Col. Gregorio

Hong Kong drug ring crushed

HONG KONG, April 16: (AP) Authorities said today they crushed an international drug-trafficking ring with the arrests of 11 men and the seizure of heroin worth \$45 million believed bound for the United States.

The arrests Thursday and Friday in this British colony resulted from a joint US-Hong Kong investigation, codenamed Operation Bamboo Dragon, that involved FBI and local undercover agents, said Chris Cantley, a top official with the police narcotics bureau.

The probe also led to the arrests of nine people and the seizure of more heroin in the United States.

The 11 men, including one US citizen, were to appear in central magistracy. Cantley said the suspects will be charged with dangerous drug offences.

Cantley said the suspects belonged to four local drug supply sources loosely connected with one another. All the arrested men were considered "very significant and we are not looking for anybody else in connection with the operation," he said at a news conference.

About 28 kilograms (62 pounds) of No. 4-grade heroin were seized during delivery to undercover officers, Cantley said. Some of the 11 were arrested after they negotiated for the sale of the heroin, while others were apprehended in the process of delivering the drugs, he said.

Jerusalem should be international city, says Jackson

NEW YORK, April 16: (Reuters) Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson apologized his night for calling Jews "hymies" but refused to break openly with a black extremist who once called Hitler "a great man."

In a television interview, Jackson also said Jerusalem should become an international city, jointly ruled by Palestinians and Israelis.

He spoke as a new poll said he was gaining on front-runner Michael Dukakis. A top campaign aide for the Massachusetts Governor said the race was much closer than the polls showed.

In the interview, Jackson refused to break openly with black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan, who has called Judaism "a gutter religion" in addition to saying Hitler was a great man.

Rule

Jackson, a black civil rights leader, said Farrakhan had no involvement in his campaign and he had no public dealings with him. But when pressed about why he had not broken openly with Farrakhan, Jackson said: "It's not necessary."

Jackson also said he envisioned Jerusalem as "an international city, a city that will attract people from the three great religions."

He said he favoured rule being shared by both Israelis and Palesti-

Honasan was not to be found, the military said.

A military spokesman said interrogation of 10 Honasan followers arrested late yesterday in a raid on a nearby house continued.

Officials claimed yesterday's raids in suburban Quezon city foiled a plot by Honasan and his followers to attack the presidential palace. The raids came as the military was on alert against any coup attempt while Aquino was visiting China.

Col. Emilio Tempio, commander of the raiding party, said the plotters planned to approach the place in rubber boats down a tributary of the Pasig river, which flows behind the palace in the heart of Manila.

But the military was tipped off about the plot, "so we acted quickly," Tempio said. "We preempted the plan."

Four of the 22 crew members were rescued about 15 hours after a passing freighter, the report said. The remaining crew drowned, and five bodies were discovered on Thursday, it said.

Plane crash

BRISBANE, Australia, April 16: (AP) A twin-engine aircraft crashed today near Biggenden, about 180 miles (290 kilometers) north of Brisbane, killing the two occupants, police said.

A police spokesman said the private plane apparently crashed into the side of a mountain and caught fire. The spokesman, who was not identified, said the plane had smashed into small pieces on impact.

On Thursday, four people were killed in a light plane accident in New South Wales state.

Mathias Rust

HELSINKI, April 16: (Reuters) Finland has decided not to prosecute Mathias Rust, the young West German who landed a small plane in Moscow's Red Square last year, an official statement said today.

The statement said Finnish authorities felt a four-year prison term Rust is serving in the Soviet Union was sufficient punishment.

The 19-year-old flew over the Finnish-Soviet border without permission last May and reached Moscow without interference by Soviet air defence forces. He said his trip was intended to foster international goodwill.

Burnt alive

NEW DELHI, April 16: (Reuters) Suspected Sikhs separatists tied up two employees of a north Indian cold store and then set fire to the store, burning one victim alive, the Press Trust of India said today.

The news agency said the separatists assaulted a watchman and a mechanic at the Amritsar district store in northern Punjab state last night.

The mechanic died in the flames and the watchman was injured.

PTI said seven other people, including two local leaders of a rightwing Hindu political party, were killed on Friday in violence by extremists fighting for an independent Sikh homeland.

Building collapse

BEIJING, April 16: (AP) Nine junior high school students were crushed to death and four others injured when their dormitory collapsed while they were sleeping, an official report said today.

The state-run People's Daily said the boys' dormitory at the Mianjin junior high school in Wan'an County, Jiangxi province, collapsed late Monday.

Drug arrests

ROME, April 16: (AP) Authorities in Rome have arrested 22 people and confiscated five kilograms (11 pounds) of pure cocaine valued at \$5.7 million and \$50,000 in cash, Italian news media reported today.

The arrests, which began last week, capped a three-month investigation into the international trafficking of cocaine and heroin through Rome.

Washington guarding its Mideast role

Arabs criticise US veto

UNITED NATIONS, April 16: (AP) The United States has come under heavy criticism for vetoing a Security Council resolution urging Israel to stop deporting Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Claiming that the resolution was unfair to Israel, US Ambassador Herbert Okun cast the only vote last night against the measure approved by the Council's 15 other members—including such close American allies as Britain and West Germany.

Several Arab diplomats accused the United States of jealously guarding its own role in the Middle East by trying to paralyse the Security Council.

Arab League spokesman Clovis Maksoud said the veto had "mortally wounded" the latest US peace initiative and

would encourage Israel to mistreat the 1.5 million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

Maksoud told a news conference later that the veto "ratifies that level of permissiveness that has emboldened Israel to defy the international community."

Measures

British Ambassador John Birch criticised Israel for brutal and often indiscriminate actions against civilians and called measures such as deportation "immoral, illegal and politically self-defeating."

"World opinion has been shocked and disgusted—rightly so—by the widespread suffering of the civilian population of all ages and both sexes," Birch said.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation envoy, Zohdi

Fresh blasts shut Islamabad schools

ISLAMABAD, April 16: (Kuna) Authorities in Islamabad and Rawalpindi this morning closed down all schools and colleges in the twin cities following last night's eruption of fresh fire in the Ojri ammunition dump resulting in the reactivation of several rockets and missiles from its smouldering ruins.

Panic again gripped the two cities when rockets suddenly started falling in areas situated in the close vicinity of the Ojri ammunition dump which had exploded last Sunday, killing nearly 100 people and injuring another 1100.

People last night again became terrified and started leaving their homes hurriedly to take shelter in nearby villages, towns and cities.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said about one dozen rockets emanating from the smouldering dump fell in adjoining localities injuring at least five persons. The localities hit by the rockets included Satellite Town, Dhok Khabba, Chaklala and

According to Jang newspaper, the second team of American bomb disposal experts had advised the Pakistanis to submerge the smouldering area under water to avoid any more fresh outbreak of fire and release of more rockets.

His organisation, founded in 1971 at a congress in London, sought improved human rights for gypsies everywhere and was striving to obtain some sort of representation in the United Nations, he said.

"We are very loyal to the countries we live in. We don't demand territorial autonomy, just equal treatment with others and the right to equal employment, schooling, our language, culture and tradition," Balic, 57, said.

Apart from India and Pakistan, home of half of the 30 million world gypsy population, they live mostly in Romania, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Greece and the Soviet Union and their status varies from one country to another, Balic said.

According to Jang newspaper, the second team of American bomb disposal experts had advised the Pakistanis to submerge the smouldering area under water to avoid any more fresh outbreak of fire and release of more rockets.

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Traffic law under study for amendment

Driving schools to open next year

By Lima Al Khalafawi

THE issue of driving licences is linked with the opening of driving schools so that new drivers would be aware of all traffic rules and fully competent, the director-general of the General Traffic Department, Brigadier Fouad Musa Al Saleh, said.

This would help to reduce traffic accidents, he added.

The driving schools will start early next year, once the establishments are complete. The first school will be in the Capital Governorate, but other governorates are included in the scheme.

Evaluate

Brig Al Saleh said that a committee had been formed to study and evaluate the current traffic law and to present suggestions for amending the traffic law to best suit the conditions and future changes in society.

He said there was no law until now to oblige drivers to wear safety belts except officers at the Interior Ministry, but the matter was under study and likely to be included in the amendment of the new traffic law.



Al Saleh

He said the ministry always provided traffic police according to the duty schedule and that the road patrols were well prepared. Due to the increase in population on the outskirts of the city, however, great efforts and more traffic police were required. There is a balance in the deployment of policemen according to needs and circumstances.

He said that roundabout signs were provided in order to organ-

ise traffic flow and cut down accidents. It was noticed that drivers followed such signs because they provided a more secure and safer flow of traffic. It is not possible to assign a policeman to every sign or stoplight, Al Saleh said.

Learners' licences

Regarding the driving schools, he said they had already formed boards of directors and appointed a director-general and had taken some administrative measures.

He said that renewal of old learners' licences would be resumed in certain cases.

He said that all people were equal before the law and punishment would apply to all.

Deaths

He said that security units on the roads would catch violators under the legal age of 18 years and refer them to the traffic court. Judgements of the courts would be enforced. He added that the number of violations had fallen since punishments were enforced. The Kuwaiti courts stressed that such violators were a danger to the public.

Greater traffic awareness would help to stamp out the bad habits of motorists, he said.

GCC donations to Palestinians praised

RIYADH, April 16, (Kuna): In a cable to GCC general secretariat, Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, Prince of Riyadh and chairman of the public committee for helping Palestinian freedom fighters, expressed thanks for the secretariat's donations in support of the Palestinian people.

The cable, received by GCC secretary general Abdulla Bishara, said your contributions materialise solidarity among Arab countries in support of the people of Palestine.

Dhaka tea team surveys market

A BANGLADESHI tea trade delegation led by the Chairman of the Tea Board, Dr Nazrul Islam, visited Kuwait from April 11-14, 1988 to explore market possibility for Bangladeshi tea in Kuwait.

They met a large number of tea importers, distributors, dealers and traders, who have shown keen interest in Bangladeshi tea because of its quality and natural flavour.

Bangladesh exports tea to several Middle countries including Kuwait and is looking for greater market opportunities.

US veto criticised

SANA, April 16, (Kuna): A Yemeni daily newspaper strongly criticised the US vetoing of a UN Security Council resolution asking Israel not to deport the Palestinians from their homeland and to abide by the Geneva Convention on the conditions of civilians at a time of war.

Al Thawra newspaper said in an editorial that by this step, the US is protecting Israel's challenge to the international community and its violation of the international norms and charters and "is blessing any crime (Israel) commits and urges it to commit more crimes."

Plan to teach Arabic to non-Arabs

A CONTRACT for the development and implementation of a special programme for teaching Arabic to non-Arabs will be signed within the next few days with the Egyptian Radio and TV Union by the Organisation of Islamic Countries Broadcasting Stations.

The contract will be signed by the Undersecretary of Kuwait's Information Ministry and chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Countries Broadcasting Stations, Abdul Aziz Jaffar, and the chairman of the organisation's executive council, Dr Fuad Al Farsi, and by the chairman of the Egyptian Radio and TV Union, Hussein Inan.

The proposed programme will be prepared both in English and French and will be broadcast all over the world via satellites.

The secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Countries Broadcasting Station, Ahmad Farraj, said that the proposed project was considered the second great attempt at spreading the religion of Islam

Faijaka marks health day

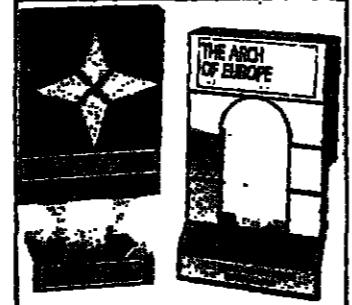
DR Waleed Al Khatib, the head of Kuwait's Faijaka Health Centre, said health is a balance between mental and physical abilities.

At a festival organised for World Health Day and Health Week, Dr Al Khatib said Kuwait offers health services in a number of different fields relating to both mental and physical health.

The Assistant Undersecretary of the Health Ministry, Ibrahim Al Mudaf, speaking on the occasion, stressed the need for cooperation between the government and the people, saying citizens must respond to the advice given regarding the care of their health.

He added that vaccinations for children and preservation of our environment were essential if the country is to achieve health for all people by the end of this century. "Health for all and all for health" was selected by the World Health Organisation as this year's slogan for World Health Day.

Gold star for quality



THE Indian jewellery company, Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri, Delhi, was recently awarded the American Gold Star for Quality and the Arch of Europe Gold Award (see picture) for quality, design and workmanship.

It is currently holding an exhibition at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel until April 22.

This is the first time Zaveri has held an exhibition anywhere in the world.

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Symposium on educational problems

ABDUL Rahman Al Khudari, the Undersecretary of Kuwait's Education Ministry, said a symposium on the establishment of a unified approach to the diagnosis and treatment of major educational problems was being planned by the ministry.

The public relations section at the Traffic Department implements traffic awareness programmes. These programmes have had a positive effect in preventing the rise of traffic accident rates during the past few years.

The information centre and traffic department are preparing a project and studies on the possibility of renewing driving licences through the post.

This project is considered the first step towards providing other facilities, such as paying traffic fines at post offices, and the department will conduct feasibility studies on such future plans.

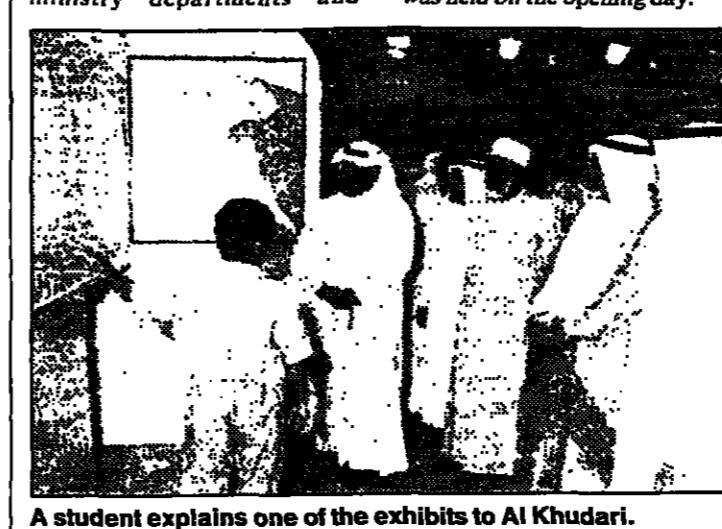
Brig Al Saleh said that individuals should comply with traffic laws, pointing out that all traffic accidents were the result of failure to comply with traffic laws.

Greater traffic awareness would help to stamp out the bad habits of motorists, he said.

educational areas, will be held at the Ministry's Training Centre in Jaberia.

Al Khudari opened the first education exhibition for the Farwaniya Educational Area at the Muthanna Primary School for Boys this week.

Exhibits of paintings and handicrafts made by the students were displayed and a sports event was held on the opening day.



A student explains one of the exhibits to Al Khudari.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah.

The Amir also received the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

Amiri cable

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to Queen Margrethe of Denmark on the occasion of her country's National Day.

Cable of condolences

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of condolences to the President of the Yemen Arab Republic, Ali Abdullah Saleh, on the death of the head of the Supreme Court of Appeal Mohammed Bin Yehya Al Eryani.

Crown Prince cable

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the Prime Minister of Denmark Poul Schluter on the occasion of his country's National Day.

GULF PRESS

Soviet Union urged to prove its credibility

A United Arab Emirates newspaper yesterday urged the Soviet Union to prove its credibility towards the just Arab cause.

"Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is not coming to the region to promote a new peace initiative that would counter the US plan," Al Wahda said.

"On the contrary we expect him to play a role complementing that of the US in order to achieve more rapprochement with Washington."

Shevardnadze is expected to tour the Middle East soon, a few weeks after US Secretary of State George Shultz made his third trip to the area to promote an American peace scheme.

Al Wahda said the new Soviet moves come after improvement in Soviet-American relations, that started with the signing of the Afghan accord on Thursday.

It asked whether the new Soviet-US detente would be "at the expense of the just Arab cause."

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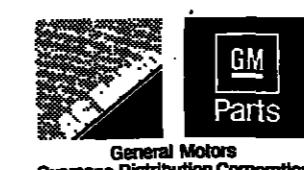
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Threat to kill all hostages

(Continued from Page 1)

pilot to fly to Mashhad in northern Iran on April 5.

But Kuwait has refused to bow to their demand to free the 17 jailed for bomb attacks on embassies and other targets in Kuwait in 1983.

Negotiations to end the crisis appeared to have come to a dead end today after three days of hectic shuttle talks produced only the release of a Kuwaiti man suffering from diabetes.

When the plane left Larnaca, where the hijackers swapped 12 hostages for fuel, Cypriot authorities said they allowed it to take off after assurances from Algeria that all remaining hostages would be released.

Demands

But the deal, if there was one, appears to have founders because of the gunmen's unyielding demands and Kuwait's refusal to capitulate.

The Algerians, with a record as tough mediators in previous Middle East hijackings, sent officials to the plane six times yesterday for negotiating sessions ranging from two to 50 minutes.

They held just one session today, about two hours before the hijackers came on the plane's radio to say they wanted to hold the news conference.

One air pirate linked to TWA ...

(Continued from Page 1)

The identification of Jzz Al Din is potentially important, administration officials told the Times, because it may help to illustrate a pattern that those terrorists have used in other hijackings.

The paper said administration officials have been struck by the similarities between the TWA and Kuwait Airways hijackings. Both apparently were conducted with extraordinary advance planning and professionalism.

Demands

And in both cases, the hijackers' demands are the same.

A French weekly magazine today accused the Iranian intelligence service, Savak, of training the hijackers.

The weekly Le Point said,

Hijacking well-timed, says Sheikh Hamad

(Continued from Page 1)

global impact of the war at its inception contributed to its expansion and destruction. "It was believed to have been only a Gulf war ... that would last several days."

Hamad said that relations between Iraq and Bahrain are good and that the Iraqis warmly welcomed the Bahraini prime minister during his visit to Baghdad recently.

Although the Crown Prince expressed approval of the Gulf Cooperation Council's formula for operation, he acknowledged that it was capable of achieving more. "The formula upon which the GCC was founded is very good and obstacles should be expected, but the forum must be protected and preserved."

The Crown Prince said: "Bahrain has the potential of having strategic industries which could meet the needs of the area market."

The Bahraini-Saudi Causeway, which links Bahrain with Saudi Arabia, has doubled the number of people who enter Bahrain. Sheikh Hamad said that they had feared that this increase in the number of cars entering the country would cause internal traffic congestion. He added that this had not become a problem and that many other positive factors had resulted.

"The causeway creates understanding among the merchants in the area which is in the interest of all."

He praised the role of Saudi Arabia in building the Bahraini Defence Force, saying: "The coordination with Saudi Arabia is good inside the framework of the GCC. We do not deny or ignore their role."

Hospital officials said more than 100 Palestinians were wounded by Army gunfire in the Gaza Strip alone, several of them in critical condition. Arab sources said most of the Gaza Strip was under curfew or declared a closed military area.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, some 15,000 Palestinians marched to mourn Al Wazir's death but were dispersed with tear gas. The city was declared a closed military area, Arab sources said.

Memorial processions were also dispersed in Al Amari refugee camp near Ramallah and at the Gaza home of Al Wazir's cousin, Ahmed, Israeli and Arab sources said.

Some passengers freed by the hijackers said the five or six gunmen who commanded the plane were joined by another man after the plane was forced to land at Mashhad.

The Supreme Islamic Council, the ruling body of Muslims in the West Bank, demanded Al Wazir be buried in Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque, Islam's third holiest site.

The mosque stands on the Biblical Temple Mount.

Hundreds of black flags were raised in the West Bank and

ground.

The hijackers, believed to be seven, arrived in Bangkok a few days before they conducted their operation using false Bahraini passports provided by the Savak.

Freed

Mugniya, 36, dropped out of sight in Beirut several weeks ago after returning from Iran. Mugniya is a security chief for the Hezbollah.

Some passengers freed by the hijackers said the five or six gunmen who commanded the plane were joined by another man after the plane was forced to land at Mashhad.

Palestinian negotiators in Larnaca, Cyprus, where the plane flew last Friday from Mashhad, said that the hijacker's leader was experienced.



Shifts in Kuwait arriving at a memorial service for the two murdered hijack victims — Khaled Ayoub Bandar and Abdullah Mohammad Al Khalidi. (Reuter wirephoto)

13 slain in bloodiest day of violence

(Continued from Page 1)

An Israeli military spokesman confirmed three Palestinians were killed in the Gaza Strip, where Al Wazir once lived, and said their families snatched the bodies from local hospitals. The Army was checking the reports of the other deaths, he said.

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Hundreds of black flags were raised in the West Bank and

PLO military commander ...

(Continued from Page 1)

they mowed him down with literally hundreds of sub-machine gun bullets."

Al Wazir's wife, Intissar, his daughter Hanan, 14, and son Nidal, 2, the youngest of his five children, were in the house at the time but were unharmed.

Palestinian officials said Al Wazir's wife told Tunisian authorities that the attackers were masked, dressed in military fatigues and were armed with silenced weapons.

Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali denounced the killing and set up a special commission to investigate.

The area around Al Wazir's home was blocked off by Tunisian security forces and no one was allowed to approach. Authorities threw up roadblocks and were checking identities throughout the area. All routes out of the country were also being watched.

Police said the three rented vehicles found at the beach, two Volkswagen minibuses and a Peugeot 305, were being examined and dusted for fingerprints.

Al Wazir was killed only two months after three of his senior officers were assassinated in Limassol, Cyprus.

Arafat stunned

MANAMA, Bahrain, April 16. (AP) — PLO chairman Yasser Arafat was stunned by the assassination of his military commander, Khalil Al Wazir, today but kept scheduled meetings in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, aides reported.

They said he was told at dawn of the assassination of Al Wazir, his "life-long friend and comrade-in-arms," several hours earlier.

Arafat met the Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, then flew on to Riyadh for an audience with King Fahd.

PLO officials said that Arafat's meetings with the leaders of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia as previously scheduled underscored his determination not to allow the assassination to deter planned political action for the Palestinian cause.

"Arafat held talks with the leadership in Bahrain and headed for Riyadh in line with the arranged programme and this shows that the Palestinian revolution is continuing and aflame," said Wafa Nabhan, the PLO representative in Bahrain.

Blamed

Arab League Secretary-General, Chedli Klibi, blamed Israel for the killing.

Tunisian President, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, condemned the killing and called a crisis meeting of top aides and ordered an inquiry.

In Jordan, PLO executive committee member, Bishop Elias Khoury, said there could be more Palestinian "martyrs" until their goal was realised.

The Reagan administration condemned the assassination and called for an end to the violence in the Middle East through the adoption of the latest American peace plan outlined by Secretary of State George Shultz.

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Reagan weighed options ranging from a show of force by sending the battleship USS New Jersey to the region, to launching a retaliatory strike against a long list of possible targets, the Post said.

Iran today warned the US it would strike back if Washington took action against the Iranians for an underwater explosion which damaged the Roberts.

"If America embarks on a new aggression on Iran, the Islamic Republic of Iran will respond with utmost force," Tehran Radio quoted a spokesman for Iran's war information headquarters as saying.

The Iranian spokesman denied that Iran had mined the Gulf since an Iraqi warplane attacked the frigate Stark with missiles on May 17, 1987, killing 37 crewmen.

Presence

The US Navy, supported by warships from several Western European countries, increased its presence in the Gulf last July to protect refloated tankers from Iranian attack.

In Washington, President Reagan met with top advisers yesterday to discuss whether to retaliate against Iran for apparently sowing new mines in the Gulf, the Washington Post reported today.

Reagan decided to assess military options rather than act on any of them, the newspaper said.

In New York, United Nations sources said yesterday that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has proposed a new Gulf peace plan, believing that the divergent positions of Iran and Iraq were "insufficient" for implementing the Security Council's July 20 ceasefire resolution.

Baghdad's government-run Al Jounoubiya daily today criticised US efforts, branding them "a dirty game which aims to throw a smokescreen over Iran's crimes against our people and country."

Missile duel between Iraq and Iran flares

(Continued from Page 1)

mine there that holed the US frigate.

The mine was one of several spotted in the area and has rekindled fears that the Iranians were again mining shipping lanes in the strategic water after apparently laying off for several months following clashes with US forces.

An AP correspondent aboard the USS Wainwright in the Gulf, reported that Navy divers today detonated two mines in the central Gulf sector, near where the Roberts was hit, while mine sweepers and helicopters searched for others.

The Roberts was the first US Navy ship damaged in the Gulf since an Iraqi warplane attacked the frigate Stark with missiles on May 17, 1987, killing 37 crewmen.

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Wazir wanted to die a martyr: parents

(Continued from Page 1)

DAIRACUS, April 16. (Reuters) — The parents of Palestinian military commander Khalil Al Wazir, shot dead in Tunis today, said their son had told them he wanted to die a martyr.

"Khalil used to say to me: 'One day you will hear that I am killed. What will you do if I am martyred?'" his weeping 78-year-old mother said.

Fawzia Al Wazir said her husband Ibrahim heard on the radio that their son had been killed by gunmen who invaded his Tunis home.

"I was in bed when he started saying 'Khalil is gone ... Khalil is gone ... They killed my son,'" she said.

"My God help us to bear this deep wound. The nation's hero is dead," he said with tears in his eyes. "Who killed my son? The

paper said Khalil wanted us to come to live with him in Lebanon. After we came to Lebanon, the war started and he moved us to this flat."

"We were living in Gaza but Khalil wanted us to come to live with him in Lebanon. After we came to Lebanon, the war started and he moved us to this flat."

Tape-recorded passages from the Quran were played as scores of Palestinians gathered at the Wazir's Damascus apartment to offer sympathy.

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Tenders are invited for the supply of the following, materials should be available ex-stock-Kuwait.

Tenders No.	Material	Tender Fee	Closing Date
1/8033	Xerographic Plan Printer	KD.2/-	2.5.1988
1/8039	Litter Supplies	KD.2/-	2.5.1988
1/8055	Tri Sodium Phosphate	KD.2/-	2.5.1988</td

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Bulgarian Art Show

An exhibition of contemporary applied arts in Bulgaria is being held at the Dahiya Abdullah Al Salem Gallery, near Fatima Mosque. Open daily, except Friday, from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, until April 21.

Ghadir Gallery

Sudanese artist Hasan Hakeem is showing his drawings at the gallery in Salhiya Complex. It is open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm, until April 21.

Sultan Gallery

The Islamic Heritage of Spain is open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm at the Sultan Gallery, Thunayan Al Ghazim Bldg, Al Soor St.

THEATRE

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance

The company will present two ballets "Carnival" and "The Never Ending Story" from April 25 to 29, 8.30 pm nightly, at the Mousetrap Theatre, NES, Jabriya. Tickets — KD4. The box office at Mousetrap is open daily from 4 to 7 pm. For telephone bookings 5610673, 8 am to 1 pm.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Natural History Group

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 7.30 at the Gulf English School, Salwa. A talk on Colour Printing For Beginners will be given by T.K. Behram. For details call Eric Shaw 3718417.

Alumni get-together

The T.K.M. College of Engineering will hold a get-together on April 21 at the SAS Hotel. Those who have not registered please contact 2402945; 4336416 after 7 pm.

KLT

St. Georges Day Informal, on April 21 at 8 pm. For members and guests. Tel: 3985964 or 3982739.

SPORTS

K.O.S.A.

Kuwait Offshore Sailing Committee (K.O.S.A.) will hold an extraordinary general meeting on April 19, 1988 hours, at Fahabia Sea Club. All members are invited to attend.

Goan Cup Tournament

The Young Goans Association, Kuwait, will hold a seven-a-side football tournament on the first day of Eid Al Fitr at Al Sour Grounds. The draw will be held on the same day at 7.30 am. Tournament commences at 7.45 am. The tournament is open to all communities, subject to approval by organisers. For details contact Tom — 2419409; Almeida 4813892 ext 232.

YMCA Holiday Special

The Young Men Cricket Association (YMCA) will hold the Holiday Special on May 17, Messilah Beach Hotel. Highlights are music by Top Ranks with special competitions such as Made for Each Other Contest, Funky King and Queen. For reservations contact Lancy — 4814914, 9 am to 4 pm, 3981790; 3929518, 5 to 8 pm.

• All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shwaikha. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

Going Places

Indians, Bangladeshis celebrate Baisakhi

Wham, bang — Punjabis dancing

WHAM, bang and the Punjabi danced at the Baisakhi di Raat celebration held on Friday at the IAC auditorium in Funaites. For the Punjabis, loud is cheerful. The higher the pitch the better. And the more the merrier. Over a thousand people attended Friday's Baisakhi di Raat, organised by the Punjabi Cultural Society to mark the 40th Independence Day celebrations. Baisakhi is also the Punjabi Harvest Festival.

Silence was taboo. Even when the president of the society N.S. Sethi recalled the success of last year's show, their first, and how it had encouraged them, his sonorous voice was drowned in the din of the chirpy audience. Sinha's significant reference to the Punjabi role in the independence, and the mass murders by the British during the Jalianwala Bagh tragedy, fell on deaf ears. Yet, surprisingly, the applause was spontaneous. Apparently, they were listening.

The brash openness of Punjabis is contagious. It seemed a sacrilege not to sing along, whistle or join in the bhangra and catcalls. If you didn't you were an outsider.

Their traditional role as fighters is part of Punjabi cultural heritage, as in the dance called "Boliyan" (performed by the Ugar Singh troupe), a must at the Baisakhi Mela, invariably ends with a playful clash between the dancers. The girls teasing each other on a warm summer day in "geddhe," another folk dance from Punjab, was the highlight of the show. The most popular dance was the bhangra, performed by Kuldeep Singh Bhamra and Inpreet Singh Sethi.

The geddhe dancers who displayed carefree joie de vivre were Amarjit Kaur Oberoi, Manjot Kaur, Satwant Kaur, Inderpal Kaur, Inpreet Kaur Sethi, Saroj Sethi, Sushil Bhatia, Gurdeep Kaur and Madhu Malhotra, Rajni.

The orchestra comprised of Ambekar, Abdul Razak, Ranjit Singh Bhogal (tabla); Zafar Iqbal (dholki); Mubarak Ali, Anwar Hussein (harmonium).

The spacious IAC auditorium could not accommodate the crowd of Punjabis, who spilled out from doorways and stood outside the hall, peering through windows to get a glimpse of the stage.

Next year, the Punjabis should arrange an open-air concert on a bigger scale. Others could join in — as there's never a dull moment with the Punjabis.

FA

(Photos by Javed Basra)



The climax of the mini-bhangra.

though the music was ear-splitting.

But the applause was deafening. Anwar Parvez, a local musician, sang and provided the background music for singers Mallika Khanna, Alka Kumar, Sapna Damer, Roma Handa, Sukhwinder Singh, N.S. Sethi, Harbans Vedi, Satish Bedi, Kasturi Lal, Dolly Manan and Preeti Bajpai.

Vocalist Shah Nawaz Karim of the Saaz aur Awaz group was the surprise guest at the show. Karim seems to have matured and polished his image as the Rafi of Kuwait.

Forty children danced the — boys and girls — bhangra and a mini-geddhe, choreographed by Mrs Amarjit Kaur Oberoi and Inpreet Singh Sethi.

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FA

(Photos by Javed Basra)



A boisterous scene from the dance number, Boliyan.



Geddhe, a folk dance, performed by Punjabi girls.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.56 am.
Zehr	11.47
Ast	3.22 pm
Maghreb	6.16
Isha	7.37

A folk dance number

Mr Hamad Al Hamad also presented medals and service recognition certificates to all employees who have completed 10, 15 and 20 years of service with the bank. A plaque and certificate were awarded to employees who have served the bank for 25 years.

The ceremony was attended by CBK's Assistant General Manager, marketing, Dalal Al Ghannim.

FA

(Photos by Javed Basra)

Bank honours employees

THE Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently honoured 105 staff members for their long-service with the establishment. CBK chairman Hamad Ahmed Abdulatif Al Hamad, addressing the employees at a recent ceremony at the Regency Palace Hotel, called for further cooperation and said: "With cooperation, we can all face the future with confidence."

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The ceremony was attended by CBK's Assistant General Manager, marketing, Dalal Al Ghannim.

FA

(Photos by Javed Basra)



Chairman Al Hamad presents an award to an employee as Ms Al Ghannim looks on.



Some of the employees at the CBK reception.

Javed Basra

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 1.00 Holy Quran
- 1.10 Cartoons: Tan Tan
- 1.30 Magazine D'Actualite
- 2.00 On Ramadan: guests are Dr Abdullah Shihata, Dr Abdul Suboor Shahin
- 2.30 Historical Serial
- 3.35 Dukkan Al Duniya: Arabic serial, featuring Muna Wasef, Mohammad Al Ibadi, Jayna Eid.
- 4.45 Daily Arabic serial
- 5.30 Hadith Deen: religious talk
- 6.30 Cartoons
- 6.45 After Iftar
- 7.00 Madina Al Riyah: children's serial, starring Khalid Al Obaidi, Abdul Rahman Al Aqal, Jassim Nabhan, Mohammad Jaber, Huda Hussein
- 8.00 Nazrat Alal Alam: cultural film
- 8.15 Divaniyat Shuara Al Nab: poetry session
- 9.00 Dairat Al Khair: religious programme
- 9.30 Ramadan contest

hosted by Huda Hussein

News

11.00 Izaj: local serial, featuring Ghanem Al Saleh, Maryam Al Ghadban, Dawood Hussein

12.00 Late Night Arabic Serial

1.00 Arbat Fi Muhimmah Rasmia: Arabic film, starring Ahmad Zaki, Noora, Najah

2.20 News Summary/ Imsak/ Holy Quran/ Cloesdown

Around the World: focus on the life of Muslims in Islamic countries

10.30 The Flying Doctors: a team of doctors and policemen set out in search of a missing family, lost in the desert.

11.30 Together We Stand: a comedy about a family who adopt a Chinese child. In tonight's episode, he is encouraged to participate in school activities.

12.00 Best-Seller: "Monte Carlo". Part One. Set during World War II Monte Carlo, it tells the story of a beautiful Russian spy and her amorous adventures with an American writer. Starring: Joan Collins.

1.30 News Summary/ Magazine D'Actualite/ Cloesdown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

- Morning
- 0800 Opening
- 0802 Songs and Music
- 0804 News
- 0840 Songs and Music
- 0845 Daily Programme
- 0900 Bands With A Beat
- 0930 Songs and Music
- 1000 Our Press Today
- 1005 Songs and Music
- 1030 Pick of the Pop
- 1100 Closedown
- 1330 News on FM Service

Evening

- 2100 Opening
- 2102 The Young Sound
- 2130 News
- 2145 Point of View
- 2155 Songs and Music
- 2200 The World of Sports
- 2245 Dairat Al Khair
- 2300 Pop Section Special
- 2400 Closedown

Urdu

- 1900 Opening
- 1910 Bait-een Qasid
- 1916 Programme Preview
- 1920 Songs
- 1935 Press Report
- 1940 Ek Khayal Ek Geet
- 2000 News
- 2020 Songs
- 2100 Geet-Kahani
- 2100 Closedown

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait
- Al Istaqlal Pharmacy
- Safat Square
- Al Kawther Pharmacy
- Abdullah Al Mubarak St.
- Hawalli and Negra
- Al Walid Pharmacy
- Tunis St.
- Salma and Rumaithiya
- Al Samah Pharmacy
- Salem Al Mubarak St.
- Fahheel and Ahmadi
- Abraj Pharmacy
- Sanan St., Fheel
- Farwania
- Al Taawon Pharmacy
- Jara Commercial Centre, Block 3, Main St.
- Jahra
- Al Khalid Pharmacy
- Opp. Cooperative Society

Al Andalus

War Time

Starring: David Blake,

Debra Kith

Al Sahiya

Wise Guys

Starring: Danny de Vito

Al Hamra

Al Maraat Wal Kanoon

(Arabic)

Starring: Sherihan, Majeda

Khateeb

Drive-In

Bab Nasar (Arabic)

Starring: Bosi, Nujwa Fuad,

Magdi Wahba

Al Firdous

Lofer (Hindi)

Starring: Dharmendra,

Mumtaz, Premnath

Fahheel Open-Air

Kabhi Kabhi (Hindi)

Al Jaleeb

Achuvettinte

(Malayalam)

Ahmed Drive-In

Hot Shots

CINEMA TODAY

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NEVER tell your resolution beforehand — John Selden, English statesman (1584-1654).

OPINION

People of Kuwait are united

THE many statements made during the last few days by the Kuwaiti Shiites and the communiqué of the Shiite Hussainiyas (religious centres) are a clear indication of the unity of the people of Kuwait.

The hijackers of the Kuwaiti airplane were mistaken when they thought they could create a rift in Kuwaiti society by releasing a number of Shiite passengers.

In Kuwait the law does not differentiate between the Shiite or Sunni. Both are equal.

The released Kuwaiti passengers spoke frankly about the maltreatment of the passengers by the hijackers and said that the hijackers had questioned them about the sect to which they belonged.

Our citizens condemned such an attitude and the attempt at discriminating between Kuwaitis based on their sect.

The hijackers proved that their main goal was to try to exploit sectarian feelings for their own use.

The hijackers were wrong when they thought that the national unity of Kuwait could be affected by their preference in releasing the hostages based on sect. They forgot that all of them are Kuwaitis and receive the same respect as long as they are loyal to their country.

The notice published by the Hussainiyas on Saturday in all the local press is a blow to those who thought the Kuwaiti people would react differently.

All people in Kuwait condemn terrorism and the abuse of innocent people. Above all, people in Kuwait recognise that all Kuwaitis are equal.

All Kuwaitis realise that decayed brains fish in troubled waters during a crisis. But our Shiite brothers have already thwarted the hijackers' plans by issuing the communiqué and by their statements.

In Kuwait we are accustomed to solid national unity, not only during times of crisis, but on other occasions as well. We want national unity to prevail — we want it to continue as does the leader of this country.

Our leader hates to see a lack of unity in Kuwaiti society. He has declared this repeatedly in his speeches and addresses and whenever doubts are raised about the strength of the national unity.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Al Wazir: an architect of Palestinian movement

NICOSIA, April 16, (Reuter): Khalil Al Wazir, a top Palestinian leader shot down in front of his family in Tunis yesterday, was a mainstay of the Palestinian nationalist movement.

His comrades pointed an accusing finger at the Israelis for the killing — for Al Wazir was Yasser Arafat's top coordinator of the four-month uprising in Israeli-occupied Gaza and the West Bank. Israel has declined comment on the murder.

Abdul Latif Abu Hilje, a senior PLO official in Tunis, said Al Wazir's role in the uprising must have been the main motive for the killing.

Al Wazir, a stocky, mild-mannered Palestinian from Ramleh near Tel Aviv, was in at the inception of the Palestinian struggle for a homeland and was one of its earliest architects.

Born on Oct 10, 1935, he started his guerrilla career as a teenage confidante of Arafat. His lifelong commitment to the cause was rooted in the slums of Gaza, where his family took shelter after being forcibly expelled from their home.

He later became a diplomatic trouble-shooter, arms buyer, military strategist and Arafat's right-hand lieutenant in charge of military operations.

Close

In Palestinian circles, Al Wazir was known as a moderate and the uprising, in which Palestinian youths confront Israeli troops with stones, was a campaign close to his heart.

The demonstrations have continued despite curfews, beatings, live fire from Israeli soldiers and a crackdown on the international media.

If the PLO was taken by surprise when the riots erupted last December, men like Al Wazir were quick to organise it into a semi-permanent challenge to Israeli occupation.

The young Al Wazir, helping his mother keep the family together by working as a pedlar in Gaza, was inspired by the rise of Egypt's nationalist leader Gamal Abdel Nasser and the bitter Algerian revolution against French colonial rule.

He soon concluded that violent struggle was essential to fix a sense of national identity in the popular Palestinian mind.

Residents living the most exciting days of their lives

Uprising transforms sleepy West Bank village

By Paul Taylor

EIN ARIK, West Bank, (Reuter): Residents of this lush farming village in the Israeli-occupied West Bank say they are living the most exciting days of their lives.

"Since the intifada (uprising) began, we are living the best moments of closeness and unity in the village," said Wadia, a spinster who farms olive and fruit groves above the valley where the sleepy village of 800 souls nestles, five km (three miles) west of Ramallah.

The Palestinian revolt that has swept the West Bank and Gaza Strip since last Dec 9 came late to Ein Arik, but it has galvanised life, forging new bonds between old and young, rich and poor, Christians and Muslims.

"Everybody is involved, everybody," Wadia said.

Ein Arik is not one of the militant hotbeds of the intifada. But it is typical of many previously docile villages, proud of its modest contribution to the

uprising.

"From the start, we obeyed every strike call. Some villagers who worked in Israeli quit their jobs," said Musa, a teacher.

"Things really began in February, when Jewish settlers

attacked the village."

He said six carloads of gun-toting Israeli militants from the nearby settlement of Dolev went on the rampage in the village at night, smashing house and car windows and shooting in the air.

Asked what sparked the raid, he acknowledged Arab youths had stoned cars with yellow Israeli licence plates in previous days.

"The shebab (youths) were waiting. When the settlers came, they rang the church bells and called people out from the mosque loudspeakers," recalled Shukri, a lawyer.

Hundreds of villagers came out and stoned the settlers, wrecking their cars and driving them out of the village.

"On the night we kicked out the settlers, we declared the

village a 'liberated area.' The whole village stayed all night in the street. Morale was so high that an 80-year-old woman sang and danced in the road," Shukri said.

Blocked

Villagers blocked roads with giant stone barricades, raised outlawed Palestinian flags over the mosque and the Greek orthodox and Catholic churches, and took turns to keep watch for the Army or settlers.

A popular committee of local nationalist activists, shrouded in secrecy to protect them from arrest, was formed to implement the directives of the clandestine unified national leadership of the uprising.

Elation was tinged with apprehension. Dozens of young people went into hiding in the hills around Ein Arik, where caves and rugged terrain offer good camouflage.

When a large Army force, some landed by helicopter, raided the village at dawn on March 2, they found only three

of a list of dozens of suspected rioters.

This time there was no violence. Shukri said: "The village knows its limits. We cannot overcome the Army like we overcame the settlers."

Young men sometimes sneak back home during the day but sleep out at night to avoid the midnight call of soldiers and agents of Israel's feared Shin Bet security service.

Summon

The youths can be summoned to the village by church bells. But when the Army tried that method to lure them back and arrest them on March 30, it did not work.

"It was the wrong peal of bells. The shebab recognized it was a trick. Nobody came," Chuckled Yousef, a farmer.

The clash with the settlers was only the start of the upheaval at Ein Arik.

In early March, three suspected collaborators, Palestinians accused of working as informers for the Shin Bet, turned over their Israeli-issued weapons and

repeated. Village elders returned the guns to military headquarters in Ramallah.

The lynching of a collaborator in the West Bank village of Khatibiyeh on Feb 25 was a chilling warning to Arabs accused of working with the Israelis.

"One former collaborator even participated in the demonstration on Land Day (March 30)," Musa said.

Ein Arik's two mukhtars, Israeli-appointed village headmen, also resigned, handing their official seals back to the Israeli occupation authorities.

One mukhtar reportedly refused to escort a Shin Bet officer to arrest a suspected rioter.

According to village lore, he told the secret policeman: "I would rather be shot by the Army and have my people walk in my funeral than live like a king and die shamed by my own kin."

Villagers say the mukhtar's role was largely to assist the Israeli authorities with popula-

tion data, and information on unlicensed construction, property and people's whereabouts.

"Since 1967 (when Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan), mukhtars did not serve the village but served the occupation," Shukri said.

The shadowy popular committee has taken over leadership of the village, although villagers are extremely reticent about its composition and influence.

"In big cities, there are leaders who are known and who dare to speak, not in small villages," Yousef said.

Obeys

"But when the popular committee grabs the microphone of the mosque or the church bells and tells people there's a general strike today, everyone knows to obey," he added.

No resident of Ein Arik has died during the uprising but one was shot and wounded this month in an event underlining the suspicion and hostility on both sides.

The Paris accords for US troop withdrawal, turning the struggle over to the well-stocked South Vietnamese. By April 1975, the North Vietnamese had won.

On Thursday, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze, who signed the troop withdrawal pledge, said supplies to the "legitimate" government of Afghan leader Najib would continue.

Shevardnadze, sounding vaguely like the American officials of the 1970s, tried to put the best face on what had happened.

When asked how Soviet generals would swallow their defeat, he replied: "Soviet generals don't think they lost the war."

The Soviet Union went into Afghanistan to help a besieged, legitimate government, he said.

Behind the gloss, US officials said, was a clear Soviet determination to end its involvement — a determination underwritten by a last-minute huddle over the continuation of superpower assistance.

Asked if Shevardnadze's condemnation of US assistance for the rebels could unravel the agreement, one official laughed and declared: "They aren't looking for a pretext to stay."

The Soviet Union went into Afghanistan to help a besieged, legitimate government, he said.

Behind the gloss, US officials said, was a clear Soviet determination to end its involvement — a determination underwritten by a last-minute huddle over the continuation of superpower assistance.

The former military leaders were convicted by the Alfonso government for their roles in human rights abuses during the "dirty war," a campaign waged last decade by the military to wipe out leftist subversion.

A government panel said at least 9,000 civilians vanished without a trace under the military dictatorship. Human rights groups say the number of people who were abducted, tortured and ultimately "disappeared" is closer to 30,000.

Rico said the military should not be penalised for tactics that he described as "necessary" in its war against subversion, nor be blamed for the embarrassing loss to Britain in the 1982 Falklands war.

In the past year, conditions have worsened on the economic and social front.

Argentina has had to renegotiate its \$54.3-billion foreign debt, the third-largest in Latin America; inflation was 206 percent in the past 12 months; workers are restive over declining real wages and Alfonso's party was routed in recent elections by the resurgent opposition Peronist Party.

Rico, meanwhile, has attracted support from rightist groups such as National Alert, a fascist organisation that favours a return to military rule. "This country is tired of the continuous agitations provoked by a small group that does not represent the general sentiment in the armed forces," said Buenos Aires provincial governor Antonio Cafiero, chairman of the Peronists and a leading presidential candidate.

Three Army officers have gone underground since February, announcing they sided with Rico and planned to fight the Marxist enemy. "Marxists," some of whom include Alfonso,



A perfectly choreographed goose step by members of the North Korean honour guard at the 442nd Military Armistice Commission (MAC) meeting at truce village of Panmunjom. (Reuter wirephoto)

North and South Korean truce talks keep going

By Michael Hughes

PANMUNJOM, Korea, (Reuter): After 442 performances and with no final curtain in sight, there is more than a touch of the theatrical at meetings of the Joint Korean Military Armistice Commission, the only place where North meets South.

These are the world's longest-running truce talks and the cast can be relied on for a polished performance.

There are the goose-stepping North Korean honour guards moving across stage at regular intervals, their boots thumping loudly with each carriage-crunching stride.

Then there is the ritual of striving for eye contact domination across the line that divides the two Koreas.

The North Korean troops' hewn faces are tops for toughness, but the soldiers of the American-led United Nations Command usually have a height advantage in the eyeballing

game.

Connoisseurs of the 25-year-old talks say the reason both sides change guards so frequently is because of the strain of not blinking, not moving and looking tough, all at the same time.

Uniforms

And the uniforms ... Swiss, Swedish, Czech, Polish, Australian, French, Gurkha, Thai and Philippine, as well as US and Korean.

By far the most dramatic is the red and white of the Thai paratrooper in the UN honour guard. It's way ahead of the shades of khaki, blue and grey of the rest.

But these are just the supporting players. The protagonists, seated on each side of a table which is bisected by the border line, remain impulsive even as they hurl verbal thunderbolts at one another.

"A war could break out at any time," says a North Korean major-general, conversationally.

"If there is tension on the peninsula, it is caused by your side —

by your actions in sinking fishing boats and blowing up civilian airliners," replies an American rear-admiral, in a tone of mild rebuke.

Formalised and often predictable as the commission talks might be, their deadly serious function is to defuse tension between the world's sixth and seventh largest armies on a strategic peninsula where the interests of the United States, the Soviet Union, China and Japan meet.

The word "democracy" appears in bold letters on a blue background. An unseen narrator says the people's will, not extremists, should decide the country's future.

It has been a year since troops at three Army camps revolted against the civilian government of President Raul Alfonsin, and three months since a string of similar uprisings at other garrisons.

The government put all of them down. But the TV commercials, keyed to the anniversary of the revolts last April, suggest that the idea of civilian rule in Argentina, restored in 1983, remains fragile.

This month, congress began to debate constitutional amendments that would strengthen civilian rule and reform the military, keeping the armed forces out of politics.

Defence analysts say South Korea has overwhelming air superiority and that the United States has stockpiled tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea.

The Korean war ended with a truce but no peace treaty on July 27, 1953. Korea was then formally divided at the 38th parallel.

An elaborate system to monitor truce violations was set up with Czechoslovakia and Poland the supervising nations on the North and Switzerland and Sweden on the South.

Accredited

The other uniforms seen at the talks belong to nations who contributed to the United Nations force in the war. Of the original 16, eight remain accredited.

Among those no longer accredited are Ethiopia, South Africa and Colombia.

Since 1953 more than 50 American and 1,000 South Korean troops have died on the border. North Korean losses are not known.

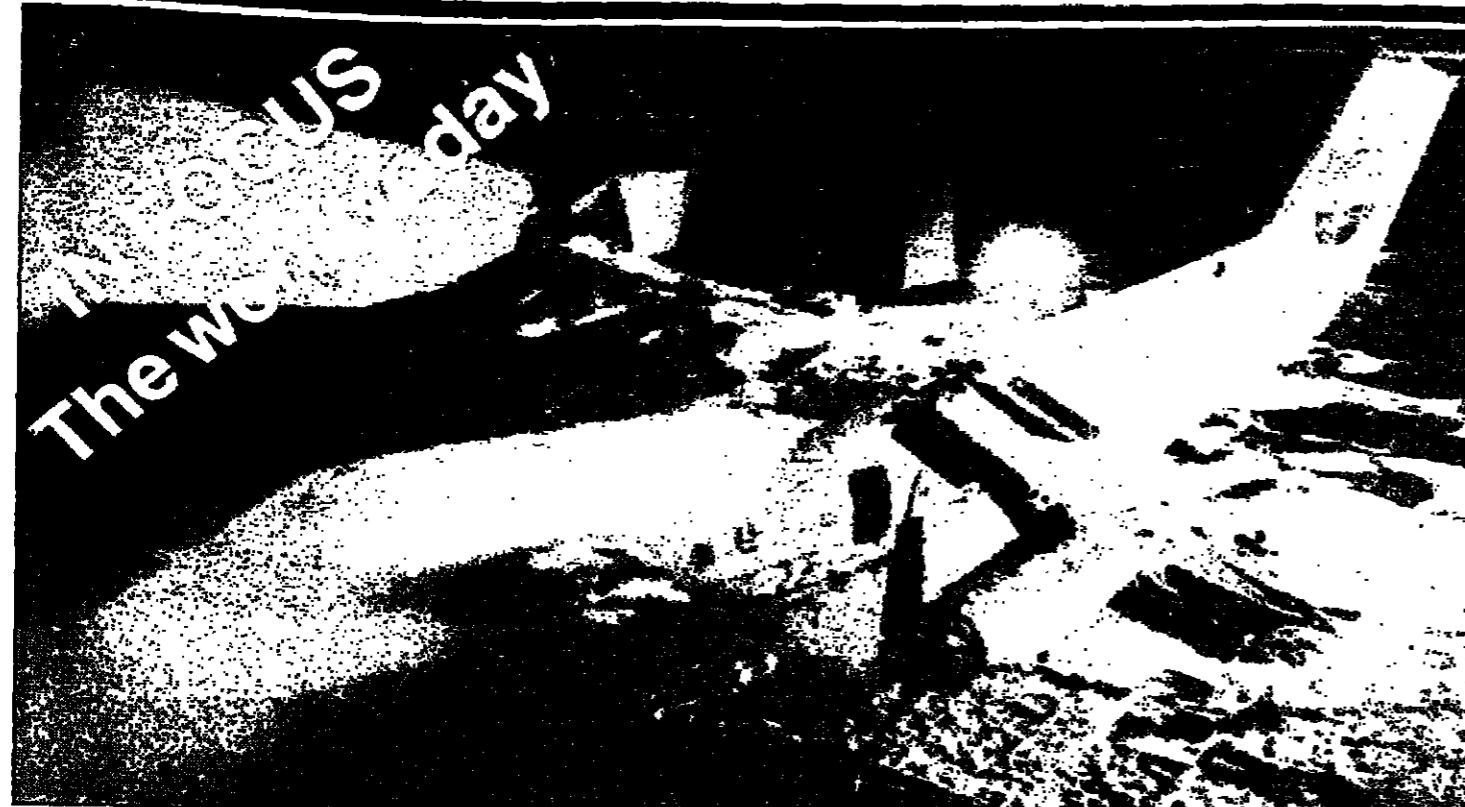
On April 15 last year, Aldo Rico, a previously fired lieutenant colonel, sparked an anti-government rebellion at Campo de Mayo.

He told a cheering crowd of 40,000 afterward: "The house is in order and no blood was shed."

When the Jauzary uprising ended after 96 hours with Rico's surrender and injuries to three soldiers by a mine blast, Alfonso made the same claim: "We have again put our house in order."

Since then, pro-Rico graffiti has spread from shantytowns outside the capital to downtown, near the seat of government.

"Rico is a patriot," and "Rico is freedom," the slogans say.



A HORIZON Air Dash-8 prop commuter plane sits wrecked next to a gate at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in Washington on Friday after crash landing into the terminal, injuring 21 of the 39 people aboard. The plane had just taken off when it developed trouble and crashed with an engine burning. (Reuter wirephoto)



RULING party M.P. Lee Young II (left) protects himself with steel chairs from a hail of rocks thrown by opposition members during a campaign rally at the southwest Korean city of Kwangju yesterday. Minor clashes between government and opposition forces have been reported in some areas during campaign rallies across South Korea for the April 26 parliamentary elections. (Reuter wirephoto)



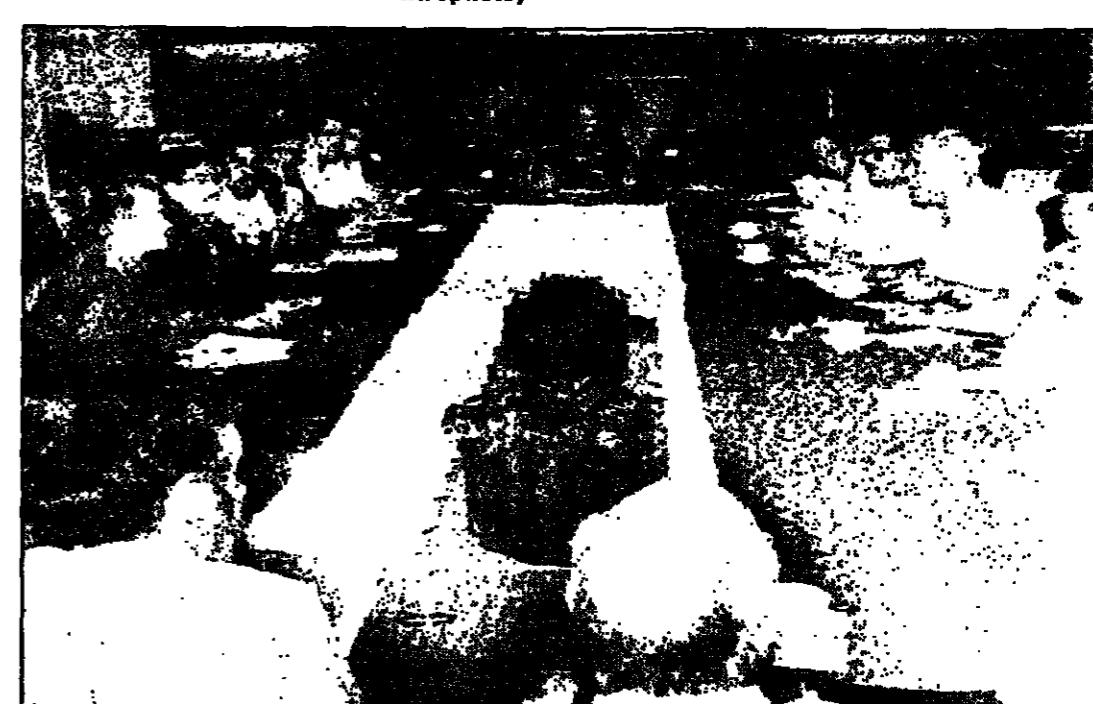
KING HUSSEIN of Jordan (left) and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt watch an air display during an armed forces show to celebrate the king's coronation. Mubarak left for Cairo on Friday after talks with King Hussein in Amman on a new US Middle East peace plan. (Reuter wirephoto)



THREE foreign photographers in an Army jeep are detained by the Israeli Army in Nablus on Friday and driven to the military headquarters of the city. Seven foreign photographers, a foreign television crew, and one Israeli photographer were all detained for several hours by the Army as they attempted to cover a Palestinian demonstration. All were eventually released. (Reuter wirephoto)



VENEZUELAN President Dr Jaime Lusinchi (right) is accompanied by Turkish Foreign Minister Vesut Yilmaz (left) early yesterday morning after his arrival in Istanbul for a private visit. (Reuter wirephoto)



CONTRA leader Adolfo Calero (right) talks with Sandinista Defence Minister Humberto Ortega (second left) on Friday before the start of peace talks in Managua. The two men head their respective delegation for four days of peace talks. (Reuter wirephoto)



AMIN ABDULLAH, one of 33 defendants facing trial on the assassination attempts of two former Egyptian interior ministers and a journalist, kisses his four-year-old daughter at the start of a court session in Cairo yesterday. Prosecution asked the death sentence for him and the other 14 members of a fundamentalist group called the 'Redeemed from Hell.' (Reuter wirephoto)



GOVERNOR Michael Dukakis (left) of Massachusetts gets a laugh out of New York Governor Mario Cuomo during a news conference on Friday in Albany, New York. Dukakis, a Democratic presidential contender, jokingly said that he would appoint Cuomo to the Supreme Court after the election. (Reuter wirephoto)



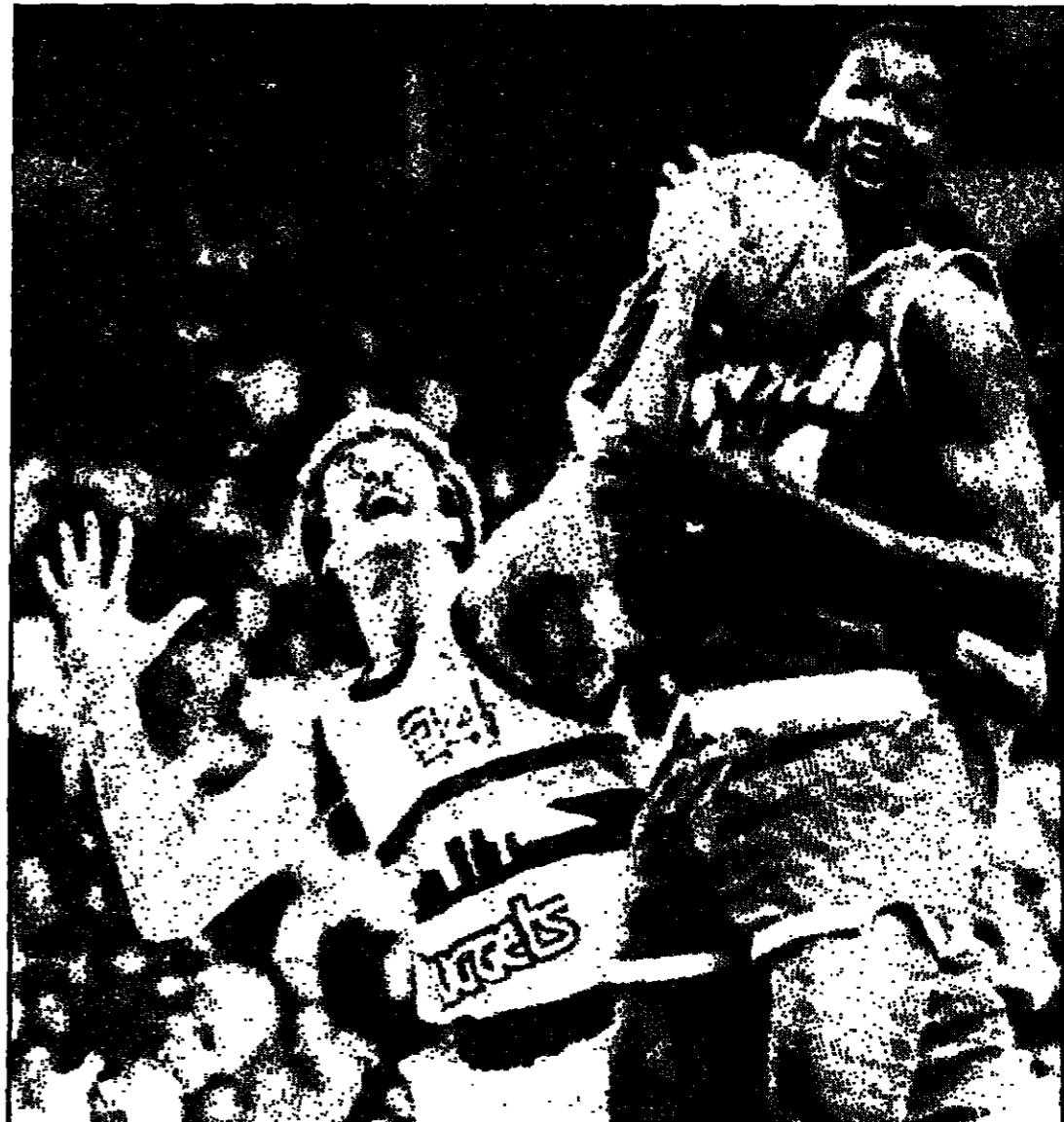
A UNIT of 755 US Marines from Pendleton, California, train in Fort Sherman, Panama, on Friday to practice jungle warfare techniques. (Reuter wirephoto)



BOSTON'S Ellis Burks (left) grabs onto Milwaukee's Dale Sveum's shoe after tagging him out at second base during a game last week. Boston defeated Milwaukee 3-1. (Reuter wirephoto)



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA shows what a versatile athlete she is as she throws a perfect spiral to wide receiver Anthony Carter of the Minnesota Vikings on Friday. Carter was at the tournament at Amelia Island, Florida, doing promotional work for Nike when Martina threw him a pass. (Reuter wirephoto)



HOUSTON centre Akeem Olajuwon (right) grabs a rebound from Denver forward Bill Hanzlik (left) during first half action in Denver's McNichols Area on Friday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Fourth pillar of Islam

Ramadan: the month of endurance

THE fasting of Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. This is because Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said Islam is upheld by five pillars; first to bear witness that there is no God but Allah alone and that Muhammad is His Messenger. Second, to pray regularly. Third, to pay Zakat i.e., divine tax for poor. Fourth, to fast during the month of Ramadan. Fifth, to visit the House of God in Makkah once in a lifetime, for those who are able to do the journey.

Fasting for the month of Ramadan was prescribed during the second year of the Hijra. Fasting was an ancient form of worship prescribed by God from the beginning of time.

The aim of ordering people to fast is that they should learn how to be patient, to have good morals, to purify their hearts, noble their character and to practice the gentle way of dealing with people.

One should feel the sufferings of hunger and thirst in order to be quick to help those who are suffering when seeing them. One must always learn to feel the fear of God and His Mercy.

Fasting in Islam has been prescribed by the Holy Quran

ween right and wrong. So every one of you who is present at his home during the month of Ramadan should spend it in fasting."

Besides this, there are many sayings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) which emphasize the time of fasting for the month of Ramadan.

We will take only one of the

Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) sayings, because it will be enough for us that this saying has been related by Al Bukhari, on the authority of Anas Ibn-Malik, one of the companions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his servant. He said "While we were sitting with Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the mosque, a man came along riding his camel. After he had ordered the camel to kneel and had tied it up outside the mosque, he asked "Which one of you is Muhammad?" "It is that fair man who is reclining there," someone answered. The man came up to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and said "O son of Abdul Al Mutalib." So Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said "I am ready to answer you," and the man replied: "I am going to ask you some harsh questions so please do not be offended regarding them."

Prophet Muhammad

"One should feel the sufferings of hunger and thirst in order to help those who are suffering"

and the saying of Prophet. The Holy Quran says "O you who believe, fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may learn self-restraint."

This is for fasting in general, but the following verse gives the reason for fasting during the month of Ramadan.

Sayings

It says: "Ramadan is the month in which was sent down the Quran as a guide to mankind, also clear (signs) for guidance and judgment bet-

(PBUH) said "Ask whatsoever you like." The man asked "In the name of your Lord and the Lord of those who came before you is it really God who has sent you to all mankind?" The Prophet answered: "Yes, by Allah He has." The man again spoke: "Ask you in the name of God, did God order you to pray five times every twenty four hours?" Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) answered: "Yes, by Allah."

Then the man said "Ask you in the name of God, did God really order you to fast this

month every year?" Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) answered: "Yes, by Allah." Again the man asked a question: "By the Name of Allah is it really God who orders you to take "Zaka" divine tax from the rich people and distribute it among poor people?" Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) answered: "Yes, by Allah."

The honour of Ramadan

Then the man said "I believe in what you have brought us from God and I am the messenger of my people." He then mentioned the name of his tribe. From these teachings, and from the Holy Quran also, it is clear that the fast of Ramadan is a duty for male and female, once they have reached the age of responsibility and

have the ability to fast.

The month of Ramadan is an honourable month. It is the season of good, during which the Mercy of God is sent down to His servants; the gates of good action will be opened and the opportunity of forgiveness and of pleasing God the Almighty are available. Many of the sayings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) tells us about the honour of the month. Some of them are as follows:

Al Nisai related that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said

"The month of Ramadan has come to you, it is a blessed month. God the Almighty makes the fasting obligatory upon you. The gates of heaven will be opened during it, the doors of hell will be closed, and the chief of Satan will be chained. One of the nights of that month is better than a thousand months, it is the Night of Power (Lailat Al Qadr) in worship for

(Lailat Al Qadr). Whosoever does not gain its honour will lose all kinds of good."

And Al Bukhari related, on the authority of Abu Huraira, that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said "When Ramadan comes the gates of Paradise will be opened, the doors of fire will be closed and Satan will be chained."

Blessed

Those who fast during the month of Ramadan for the sake of God and hoping for His mercy, have been promised forgiveness by God, according to the saying of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH): "Whoever fasts in the month of Ramadan and prays during the night for his belief in God and for the sake of God, his previous sins will be forgiven; and who ever spends the Night of Power (Lailat Al Qadr) in worship for



Ramadan is the month in which the Holy Quran was sent to mankind.

the sake of God, his previous sins will be forgiven.

The most comprehensive tradition of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) regarding the honour of Ramadan is the one related by the authority of Salman Al Farisi. He told how God's messenger said, in a sermon which he delivered on the last of Sha'ban, "A great month, a blessed month, a month containing a night

increased. If someone gives one who has been fasting something with which to break his fast it will provide forgiveness of his sins and save him from hell, and he will have a reward equal to his without the reward being diminished in any respect."

Some people remarked to God's messenger that they did not all have the means to give one who had been fasting some-

Rich, oily food may cause complications

Avoid over-indulgence during Ramadan

By Fathima Ahmed

WITH the change in lifestyle during the Holy month of Ramadan, eating habits also change. Contrary to common belief, fasting does not make people thinner.

According to doctors in Kuwait most people gain weight during the month, despite going without food or water for as long as 15 to 17 hours a day.

One reason could be the rich, spicy and often greasy diet taken at the time of breaking the fast or during the pre-dawn meal. But the rich food may lead to complications, according to doctors.

In most Muslim homes a feast is prepared for Suhoor (pre-dawn). Although it is customary to break the fast with dates and a glass of juice, most families prepare an elaborate feast for Iftar.

Breakfast food in Kuwaiti homes is more elaborate and

greasy than in normal months. One Kuwaiti said: "Our food during Ramadan is richer, thicker and oily."

Asian families also apply their culinary knowledge to the fullest in Ramadan. Deep-fried foods are in abundance for Iftar.

During all the preparations for Ramadan, most people forget the real significance of the month.

"Fasting during the month of Ramadan provides people with will-power and the guidance to obey Allah by discarding the desires of the body." According to Hadith, the eating of suhoor is obligatory for all Muslims, as is the consumption of Iftar at dusk. However, this does not in any way mean that people should stuff themselves.

Quoting a Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Jawad Emad, a Kuwaiti doctor, said: "Our Prophet said that 'You shall fill 1/3 of your stomach with food, 1/3 with water, and

leave the remainder empty for rest.'

"Instead of following the advice, we stuff ourselves, overeating and indulging in fatty foods."

Dr Jawad, who is a surgeon at Kuwait's Amiri Hospital urged Muslims who fast to drink over three litres of fluid overnight to avoid kidney problems. Jawad agrees and adds: "Those with a kidney problem should not fast. Fluid consumption is also necessary for patients with asthma, and diabetes."

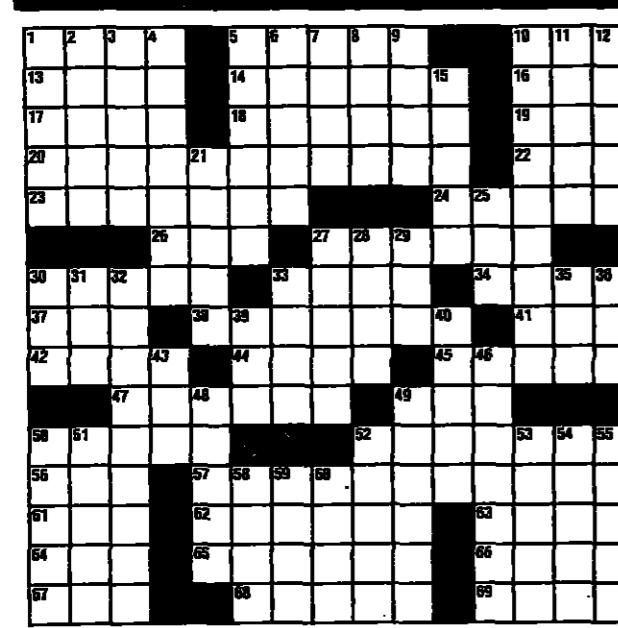
Eating high-cholesterol foods could threaten people with cardiac diseases says Jawad, who believes that sudden consumption of large amounts of food sparks off a reaction.

He explains: "The digestive system works overtime to cope with the heavy food load. If it is unable to function normally, there is a chance of artery blockage due to greasy foods. This could eventually lead to heart attacks."

The aim of ordering people to fast is to teach them patience, have good morals and purify their hearts'

thing with which to break his fast. And he replied: "God gives this reward to him who gives one who has been fasting some milk mixed with water, or a date, or a drink of water with which to break his fast; and anyone who gives a full meal to one who has been fasting will be given a drink from my supply of water by God and will not thirst till he enters paradise. It is a month whose end is freedom from hell. If anyone makes things easy for his slave during it, God will forgive him and free him from hell."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



FILIPINO DIGEST

SNIPPETS

Retirement programme to tap Filipino, foreign funds

MILLIONS of pesos worth of capital may be tapped by local businessmen in tie-up arrangements with overseas Filipino and foreign retirees who are investing in the country through an investment programme initiated by the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA).

The new and potentially large investment capital is made available through the PRA programme that facilitates the resettlement of overseas Filipinos and foreigners who wish to retire in the Philippines.

Likewise, the local business economy is also expected to flourish with the influx of the retirees who may spend at least \$500 a month per retiree in purchasing local goods and services.

This new market of a high-affluent class of foreign retirees had expressed their interest in making the country their retirement homes because of the generally mild and pleasant climate, the low prices of goods and services, and the warm and friendly traits of the Filipinos.

Police raids cost fun establishments dearly

ERMITA will die in a week if police raids on fun establishments continue.

Gilbert Compuesto, spokesman of the Ermita working force group, claimed in a public hearing at City Hall that since the raids started late last month, the establishments have been losing from P20,000 to P25,000 daily.

There has been a 99 per cent drop in customers and foreign owners and investors are poised to either close shop or pull out their investments from their partners, Compuesto said.

Compuesto said their group is willing to cooperate with the authorities but guidelines on what is bold or not are yet to be drawn up by the city council.

Councillors lambasted the police for allegedly not allowing arrested dancers to dress up and for apprehending even those who have permits and licenses.

Col Edgar Dula Torres, Manila police deputy superintendent, acted replied: "We are only doing our duty."

The group of establishment owners disagreed over a plan to transfer them to bazaars and flea markets which will be put up in Ermita should they lose their jobs.

US bank sued over credit card hassle in Manila

BOSTON, Massachusetts: A Philippines-born woman is suing a US bank for anguish caused when, she alleges, a Manila hotel held her sick infant and six-year-old daughter as collateral until she paid her bill.

Maria Luz Deuluis, 38, filed a \$2-million lawsuit against the Bank of Boston because she said someone there made a mistake on her credit card account while she was visiting the Philippines.

She said the ordeal began when she and her two children checked into the Royal Palm Hotel in Manila for a week in November 1986 and she presented her Bank of Boston credit card.

"They called my room at 11 o'clock at night and said the bank had voided my credit card," Miss Deuluis said.

When she asked the hotel to check again, they responded by taking her credit card and calling the police, who seized the family's passports and ordered a security guard to watch them during a three-day bank holiday, she said.

After the weekend, police escorted Miss Deuluis to a bank and held the two children as collateral until she could arrange to get the money, which took most of the day, she said.

"My baby son was sick, he had a fever and diarrhea," Miss Deuluis said. "I was nervous all the time. I was horrified. I thought they might take the kids away from me forever."

She added that the hotel released the children after she paid the bill and complained to the US embassy.

The Bank of Boston tried unsuccessfully to get the suit thrown out last year, saying Miss Deuluis brought the problem on herself by restricting her credit card so her boyfriend could not use it.

"This is the craziest story," said Bank of Boston spokesman Wayne Taylor. "It's the most groundless, frivolous suit."

AFP

Do not overstep line of public safety, warns Aquino

Media gag on Gringo removed

By J. Esplanada

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Ministers and bankers put economy on the road to recovery

Economic optimism chastened by markets

WASHINGTON, April 16. (Reuter): Finance ministers and central bankers from the industrialised democracies are confident that they have put the world economy on the road to recovery but the markets remain uncovered.

News of a wider than expected \$13.83 billion US trade deficit in February sent share prices on Wall Street plunging on Thursday to their fifth biggest fall and pushed the dollar three pfennigs and three yen.

The announcement of a sharper than expected 0.6 per cent rise in US producer price inflation yesterday stoked fears that US interest rates would have to rise.

Strategy

But officials at international monetary meetings in Washington this week put a brave face on the market turbulence.

They said traders and investors were over-reacting to an aberration in one month's statistics.

Egyptian exports to S. Arabia to get special treatment

CAIRO, April 16. (Reuter): Saudi Arabia has agreed to give preferential treatment for Egyptian exports, Minister of Cabinet Affairs Atel Ebed said today on his return from a Gulf tour.

"It has been agreed that Saudi Arabia give special customs treatment for Egyptian exports," the National Middle East News Agency quoted him as saying after visiting the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

He did not elaborate but said Saudi Economy Minister Sheikh Mohammed Ali Abu-Khalil would visit Egypt on Sunday for discussions on boosting economic ties.

Plans

Ebed said earlier in Abu Dhabi that officials from Egypt and the three Gulf states would soon meet to discuss plans to revive the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI), a joint arms production group formed 13 years ago, Ebed said.

The three Gulf states withdrew from the AOI in protest at Cairo's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, but have since restored ties with Egypt.

Coca-Cola Co. reports 13.5pc rise in profits

ATLANTA, April 16. (Reuter): Coca-Cola Co. reported today that its first-quarter profits rose 13.5 per cent to \$211 million, reflecting a surge in its worldwide soft-drink sales and gains from the dollar's steep decline.

The company's operating earnings increased even more dramatically, jumping 34 per cent to \$360.7 million, but net earnings were weighed down by a \$51-million loss on an investment in Columbia Pictures Entertainment Inc. and the weak performance of the firm's food operations.

The Atlanta-based company's revenues rose to \$1.87 billion from \$1.55 billion in 1987's first quarter.

Volume

Coca-Cola controls 40 per cent of America's soft-drinks market, but relies on overseas sales for more than half of its operating income.

Coca-Cola's worldwide soft-drink volume rose 9 per cent. Operating income additionally was helped by a 16 per cent drop in the dollar against key foreign currencies from year-ago levels, so revenues translated into larger sums of dollars.

Saudi fertiliser firm begins production

RIYADH, April 16. (Opec): The Saudi Fertiliser Company (Ibn Al Baytar) started commercial production as of January this year, it was reported here yesterday.

The company went on stream in August last year with a projected production of 500,000 tons of liquid ammonia per year. The whole production is for export.

Saudi Arabia is planning to expand the plant over the next two years to increase its capacity to 800,000 tonnes of compound fertiliser and urea.

Ibn Al Baytar is one of 14 plants affiliated to Sabic, Saudi Arabian Basic Industries. These include 11 petrochemical plants, two steel plants and an industrial gas plant.

tics and insisted their strategy of boosting their economies by cutting taxes and liberalising markets was still correct.

"The events of yesterday are no reason to call this strategy of a gradual improvement in the trade and current account balances into question," West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said yesterday.

Finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations on Wednesday expressed optimism that their strategy of cooperation was working.

A G-7 communiqué welcomed evidence of gradually improving world trade balances and greater exchange rate stability.

The markets remain acutely sensitive to statistics drawing attention to the unhealthy state of the world economy.

The G-7 nations, whose strategy of structural change is inevitably long-term, responded

to last week's dollar weakness by massive intervention on the foreign exchange markets, buying hundreds of millions of dollars unwanted by investors.

Although G-7 officials underlined their determination to support the dollar on the markets if necessary, the central banks know they cannot intervene indefinitely.

Impression

"There cannot be unlimited guarantees by central banks or governments to step into markets because that would give the wrong impression," said Dutch Finance Minister Onno Ruding, who chairs the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) policy-making interim committee.

The interim committee called yesterday for resolute action and cooperation policies to avoid the risks to the world economic outlook.

If the central banks of Japan

and West Germany buy dollars they have to push their own currencies out into the market, effectively printing money and creating a danger of inflation.

On the other hand if the stubborn US trade deficit pushes the dollar down to make American exports cheaper and imports dearer US interest rates could rise.

Expectations

"If there were strong expectations that the dollar would be sharply devalued then American interest rates would rise because the Americans must finance a current account deficit of \$150 billion this year with capital imports," West Germany's Stoltenberg said.

The foreign investors who finance the US budget deficit by buying government securities would want a higher return to compensate for currency losses.

Higher interest rates are the last thing the US government

wants in an election year. A rise in interest rates would make credit more expensive, hurting private household and business.

This could spark a sell-off of shares in a market still mindful of last October's stockmarket crash.

"I don't think anybody wants to see any increase in interest rates," said Canada's Finance Minister Michael Wilson. "It wouldn't be good for our countries or for the health of the developing countries."

Rates

But markets are speculating that the Federal Reserve Board, the US central bank, will have to raise interest rates, and not only to support the dollar.

Recent statistics, crowned by yesterday's producer price data, suggest the US economy is growing so strongly that worries of a revival of inflation have replaced fears of recession.

The United States could decide to cut the budget deficit further but this is ruled out in an election year and probably could not be fitted into Congress's schedule.

The main US trading partners, Japan and West Germany, have ruled out any interest rate cuts of their own to help the dollar. Their discount rates are at record lows.

Spending

West Germany, running a record budget deficit, is unable to stimulate its economy by tax cuts or increased government spending.

Berly Sprinkel, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, agreed that currency intervention was not a long-term solution. He said the answer had to be a mix of US budget cuts to dampen domestic demand, matched by a stimulus of domestic demand in West Germany and Japan.

World Business Summary

US businesses plan to boost capital spending by 8pc

WASHINGTON, April 16. (AP): US businesses plan to increase capital spending by 8 per cent this year, the government reported yesterday, raising hopes that manufacturers will expand factory capacity enough to ease long-term inflation pressures. The Commerce Department said US companies expect to spend \$419.9 billion, after adjustments for inflation, on expansion and modernisation this year. If realised, that would be the best gain since a 9.6 per cent rise in 1985.

Businesses spent \$38.7 billion last year, a 1.7 per cent increase over 1986. The new estimate for 1988, based on a survey completed in March, represented an increase over a survey finished in November, when businesses said they planned to spend 7.3 per cent more.

"That's good for inflation in the longer term," said Mamie Harris, chief economist of PaineWebber financial firm in New York. "That added capacity helps meet demand ... If they weren't increasing their capital spending, I'd worry." A separate report by the Labour Department yesterday, showing wholesale prices advancing at a 7 per cent annual rate, renewed inflation fears among investors. Adding to the concern is the fact that the operating rate at factories, at 82.4 per cent of capacity in February, is the highest in eight years. The Federal Reserve plans to release data for March on Monday. Lawrence Chimerine, president of the Wefra Group, a Philadelphia-area forecasting firm, said if businesses follow through on their plans, they will be able to produce more.

Brazil seeks easier repayment terms, not debt forgiveness

NEW YORK, April 16. (AP): Brazilian Finance Minister Mailson Ferreira Da Nobrega says he is intensifying efforts to achieve full normalisation of relations between the international financial community and Brazil, the Third World's biggest debtor.

Nobrega said yesterday that Brazil wants easier repayment terms, not debt forgiveness. In February last year Brazil unilaterally suspended interest payments on \$67 billion it owes to foreign commercial banks. But since Nobrega took office three months ago it has resumed some payments and the country has made progress in talks with its creditors. Nobrega spoke yesterday at a meeting attended by about 300 business and bankers to discuss investment possibilities in Brazil with top Brazilian officials. Nobrega said Brazil, which owes a total of \$108 billion abroad, welcomes any foreign investment that strengthens its productive capacity. Armin Lore, director of the Brazilian Central Bank's foreign department, explained details of a Brazilian plan to swap foreign debts for investments in Brazil. Fielding questions, Lore said he recognises that Brazilian exchange controls can lock foreign investors into losses whenever the Brazilian cruzado is devalued. He said the Central Bank is preparing a plan to deal with this risk, and that once the foreign debt problem is settled, the Brazilian foreign exchange market will be at least partially free.

Egypt raises oil prices

CAIRO, April 16. (AP): Egypt decided yesterday to increase the price of its export oil varieties by up to 60 cents a barrel in the second half of April. A barrel of the top-grade Gulf of Suez and Belayim will go up the maximum 60 cents, Gulf of Suez from \$14.85 from \$14.25 and Belayim to \$14 from \$13.40. The price of Rag Badran will be 20 cents a barrel higher, to \$13.10 from \$12.90, and the increase on the lowest grade Ras Ghareb is set at 40 cents to \$12.30 from \$12.10. The new prices are effective from April 16 through April 30. The increases, the second in a month, were announced by Hammud Ayoub, head of the ministry's foreign sales department. He said they reflect improvements in world oil prices due to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries's efforts to cooperate with non-Opec countries. Opec members are to convene meetings this month with Egypt and other non-Opec oil producers to consider shared production restraints in an attempt to stabilise the world oil market. Egypt produces 870,000 barrels of oil daily, of which half is exported. It sets its prices generally in line with Opec policies. After two price reductions in March, Egypt raised its prices for the first half of April by one dollar a barrel on all grades.

Texaco to sell additional assets

NEW YORK, April 16. (AP): Texaco Inc. announced yesterday it will issue a quarterly dividend and will sell off an additional \$2 billion in assets as part of its restructuring.

At its first meeting since Texaco emerged from chapter 11 bankruptcy court reorganisation on April 7, the oil giant's board of directors authorised a 75-cent quarterly dividend, a move analysts said would calm shareholder concerns about the value of the company's stock. Texaco had been barred from paying dividends after it filed for bankruptcy protection on April 12, 1987, in the wake of its legal battle with Pennzoil Co. The company said the dividend will be paid on June 10 to shareholders of record on May 3. James W. Kimear, Texaco's president and chief executive officer, said in a statement that the resumption of dividends "at a substantial rate demonstrates Texaco's confidence that this expanded restructuring will enable us to build a more profitable company on a solid core of our most productive assets." Directors said they planned to sell off \$5 billion in assets to increase the company's flexibility by reducing debt.

In its 1987 annual report, Texaco had said it hoped to raise at least \$3 billion through the sale of assets, but Friday's action increased that amount by 2 billion. Texaco said the sale would include "producing, manufacturing and marketing assets, both domestic and overseas."

Last week Texaco confirmed it is negotiating to sell its West German subsidiary, which operates 1,903 gas stations in Germany. Officials said the operation could fetch as much as \$1.7 billion.

IMF meetings end amid optimism about Third World debt

WASHINGTON, April 16. (Reuter): The International Monetary Fund and World Bank ended a week of meetings here amid unusual optimism about prospects for easing Third World debt problems.

Previous meetings had often been marked by clashes between rich and poor countries among the IMF's 151 members over the best ways of tackling the crisis, now in its sixth year.

But this time the two international lending agencies, without ignoring the heavy debts and deep poverty still confronting many developing countries, dwelt on the positive steps that have been taken in the past six months.

Change

Agreement had been reached on a \$75 billion cash infusion for the World Bank, rich countries had agreed to triple the pool of money available on easy terms to the poorest nations of sub-Saharan Africa, and commercial banks had developed innovative market mechanisms to reduce countries' debt loads.

"There's a real sense of momentum," David Hopper, a senior World Bank official, told

supporters doubt whether this would be possible.

Fitzwater said yesterday that Reagan had decided to veto the legislation if it goes to his desk in its present form.

Fitzwater said the 60-day provision would build in rigidities that would make it more difficult to save endangered companies.

"While the administration would be willing to accept a positive trade bill, we cannot accept one that includes seriously flawed elements that will hurt America's competitive ness," he said.

Augustus Hawkins, chairman of the House of Representatives Education and Labour Committee, said Congress might not be able to override a Reagan veto to the trade bill.

Lawmakers who have spent more than a year preparing the massive bill fear that it would effectively be killed off if President Reagan goes ahead with a threat to veto the whole thing unless the 60-day provision is dropped.

The House of Representatives and the Senate could overturn a White House veto only if both voted by a two-thirds majority, and even the bill's most ardent

supporters doubt whether this would be possible.

Fitzwater said yesterday that Reagan had decided to veto the legislation if it goes to his desk in its present form.

Venezuela shares those principles. To strengthen them at this stage in the oil market is fundamental to Opec's future and is of vital interest to all our countries," he added.

He said Venezuela and Indonesia, who are both members of the Opec price monitoring committee, should work together closely as a team.

Lusinchi was accompanied by his ministers of energy and foreign affairs.

Energy Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti is scheduled to go to Malaysia, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Malaysia, Oman and Egypt are part of the seven non-Opec producers, along with Mexico, China, Colombia and Angola, who are scheduled to meet with Opec in Vienna on April 23 to discuss measures to prop up the oil market.

Another company, specialising in computer systems, will provide services and facilities within the country.

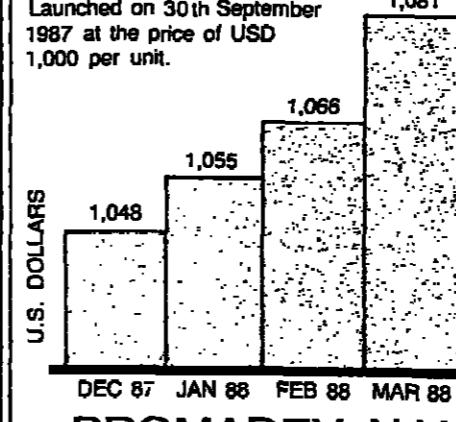
Maintenance

According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), of these projects, Al Salam aircraft company will specialise in the production, manufacture, assembly, repair and maintenance of bodies and parts of aircraft.

Another company, specialising in computer systems, will provide services and facilities within the country.

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CURRENCY & BUSINESS

ARAB TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 1988

Alshall stock price indices

Kuwait trading volume surges

ALSHAL index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 36.33 points with a decrease of 0.57 points from last week. Alshall index for Gulf shareholding companies reached 47.31 points with an increase of 0.52 points for the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 11.83 million shares at a daily average of 2.37 million shares with an increase of 14.5 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 2.07 million shares.

Gulf traded shares reached 13.48 million shares at a daily average of 2.36 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD4.282 million at a daily average of KD0.856 million, an increase of 40.5 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.609 million.

The value of Gulf traded shares was KD0.412 million at a daily average of KD0.082 million, an increase of 15.5 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.071 million.

The market was more active than the previous week especially for Gulf shares where the relative weight of Coast Investment Company in the index was adjusted to reflect the stock dividend made by the company.

The margin between the two indices at 11 points in favour of Gulf shares index reached its highest level since the Gulf shares index exceeded Kuwaiti shares index almost a year ago.

For Kuwaiti shares, the Banking Sector maintained its lead at 62.2 per cent of total trading of which the Gulf Bank has 35.8 per cent, Kuwait National Bank 33.8 per cent and the Commercial Bank 11 per cent.

The Services Sector came second at 24.4 per cent of total trading of which Kuwait Commercial Markets had 69 per cent, Mobile Telephone Systems 28 per cent and Public Warehousing Company 3 per cent. The Investment Sector came third at 7.4 per cent of which Commercial Facilities had 48 per cent, Investment Company Kuwait 18 per cent and International Financial Advisors "IFA" 17 per cent.

For Gulf shares the Other Companies Sector had 7.3 per cent of the total trading with Ras Al Khaima White Cement having 75.5 per cent of total Gulf shares traded volume, Bahrain International Bank 8.6 per cent and Coast Investment and Development 6.4 per cent.

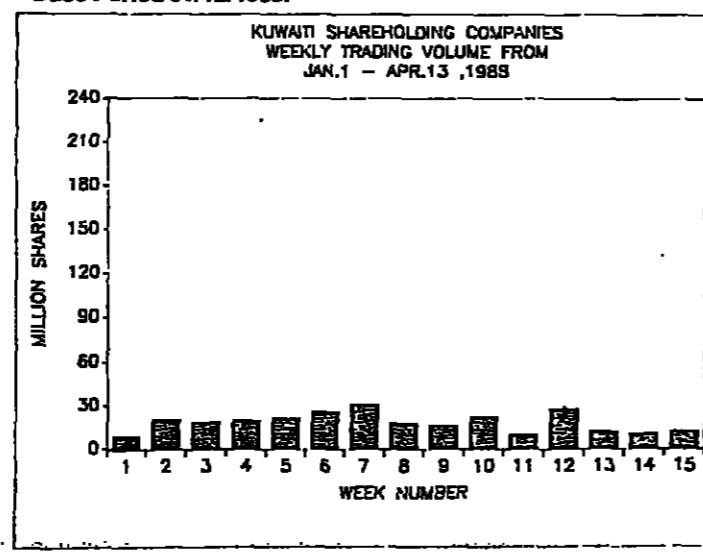
From time to time some of the recent announcements are calling for restructuring some of the companies as all the previous attempts to make them active in trading did not work.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

Wednesday Wednesday Change

13/04/88 06/04/88 points

Banking Sector			
Kuwait National Bank	88.27	88.27	—
The Gulf Bank	27.25	28.51	-1.26
The Commercial Bank	20.90	21.25	-0.35
Al Ahli Bank	25.95	26.91	-0.96
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	25.87	26.75	-0.88
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	30.16	30.16	—
Burgan Bank	23.39	24.38	-0.99
Kuwait Finance House	61.23	61.98	-0.76
Sector Index	38.48	39.14	-0.85
Investment Sector			
Kuwait Investment Co.	28.70	31.43	-2.73
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	26.12	27.84	-1.72
Inv. Pearl Kuwait	80.95	82.54	-1.59
IFA	72.06	75.00	-2.94
Commercial Facilities	95.00	96.25	-1.25
Sector Index	37.40	39.68	-2.28
Insurance Sector			
Kuwait Insurance Co.	37.51	37.51	—
Gulf Insurance Co.	28.46	28.46	—
Al Ahlia Insurance Co.	45.09	45.09	—
Warba Insurance Co.	71.31	72.16	-0.86
Sector Index	38.19	38.24	-0.05



Markets stabilise in spite of rise in wholesale prices

NEW YORK, April 16, (AP): The biggest hike in wholesale prices in 11 months fuelled uneasiness at already jittery markets in the United States, but stock prices stabilised following a \$100-billion drop.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials rose 8.29 points yesterday to 2,013.93 after plunging 101.46 points on Thursday. Stocks also dipped in foreign markets and interest rates rose, but the dollar stabilised.

In spite of the Dow Jones increase, declining issues outnumbered advancing ones by about 9 to 5 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The US Labour Department raised inflation worries with its report that the producer price index of finished goods rose 0.6 per cent in March, an annual rate for wholesale inflation of more than 7 per cent.

Investors

Investors had been worried about inflation because of Thursday's report that the merchandise trade deficit jumped unexpectedly to \$13.8 billion in February.

The big trade gap signalled to some investors that an overheated economy was taking in too many imports. The report also threatened to fuel inflation.

by knocking down the dollar, which would boost import prices.

In spite of the wholesale inflation report, the fear that drove prices down on Thursday was largely absent from the markets yesterday.

"There's a bit of concern in the produced price number but not anything great," said Lincoln Anderson, an economist for Bear, Stearns and Co.

Investors realised that the big jumps in food and energy costs that swelled the index in March were probably only temporary, Anderson said.

Interest rates rose yesterday as traders speculated the Federal Reserve would try to wring inflation expectations out of the market by tightening credit and slowing down the economy.

Tightening by the Fed would push up interest rates in the short term but pave the way for them to decline over the longer term by easing fears of an overheated economy.

Some economists worried that the Fed accidentally would knock the economy into recession by trying too hard to cool things off.

"What's absolutely amazing to me is that last fall all the experts were looking for recessions."

Crash reverberating six months later

A sense of shock and confusion still pervades Wall Street

major stock markets so far in 1988 is running behind the pace it set a year ago. Through April 8, volume was down 4.1 per cent at the New York Stock Exchange, and 16.7 per cent in the over-the-counter market.

The NYSE decline would be much bigger if not for heavy trading in stocks of companies targeted for takeovers and high-yielding issues with impending dividends.

Veteran observers caution that it will take still more time to assess the crash's ultimate effects. Even with the advantage of hindsight, it is clear that the crash was many different things to many different people.

Policies

At one extreme, some analysts say Black Monday was just the first stage of a severe bear market that will usher in a recession — or worse — in the nation's economy.

On the other side, some insist it was nothing more than an exaggerated "correction" that drove

Moody's top rating for SBI

STATE Bank of India has been assigned the rating of Prime-I (P-I) by Moody's of New York, one of the top two credit rating agencies in the world.

P-I is the highest rating given by Moody's to short-term debt issues like commercial paper.

This is the first time that any Indian institution has been given a rating by an agency for use in foreign money markets.

Moody's, being a prestigious international rating agency, is very exacting in its standards. So, very few banks from the developing countries go in for a rating from this agency.

The SBI took the initiative last year to obtain a formal rating through a rigorous exercise involving an implicit sovereign rating as well.

In earning this very favourable rating, the SBI joins a select band of major banks from the developed world and just one or two banks from the developing countries for a second day.

Overseas yesterday, key indexes fell less than 1 per cent on the Tokyo and London stock exchange.

This unique achievement by SBI would reduce borrowing costs in the international markets not only for SBI borrowings but also for other Indian public and private sector borrowings.

The ratings given by Moody's or other top rating agency's such as Standard and Poor of New York, have considerable impact on the money market instruments issued by the borrowers

in the market.

The investors in these markets implicitly go by these ratings in investing their funds in these instruments as the ratings have been done by the agencies by assessing the abilities of the borrowers in servicing these instruments.

Thus, a bank's or a company's performance is continuously monitored by the rating agencies in regard to profits, market share, overdues, bad debts and such other factors to assess whether the borrower is able to service its own debts.

Funds

Spot-next and one-week funds edged up 1/4 point to 7-1/4, 6-3/4 per cent with traded reported in both at seven per cent tomorrow next was also bid at seven per cent.

One-month funds edged up 1/8 point on the offer side to 6-7/8, 11-16 per cent. Two and three-months firmed 1/16 point to 6-15/16, 3-3/4 per cent and seven, 6-13/16 per cent respectively.

Rating agencies

Rating agencies, thus, provide a yeomen service to the investors, who generally do not have the expertise or the time to follow the performances of thousands of individual borrowers in the markets.

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It is interesting to know that investors abroad, who are generally more sophisticated and knowledgeable, depend on the credit agencies for guidance on their investments.

KD deposit rates steady in quiet trading

KUWAITI dinar deposit rates were steady yesterday in quiet trade.

Dealers reported business only in the one-month, which dealt at 5-7/8 per cent from 5-3/4 and 5-1/2 per cent on Thursday.

The short dates were again well offered amid high liquidity from last week's Central Bank support fund payments.

Overnight was offered at 1/2 per cent and tomorrow and spot next at one per cent but there were few or no reported deals. One-week was quiet at 6-1/2, 5-1/2 per cent.

Rates changed little during the day and were quoted at the close at six, 5-1/2 per cent for the one-month and 6-1/8, 5-5/8 per cent for the two through 12-month maturities.

The Central Bank did not announce new Treasury bills or bonds yesterday.

Firmer

Its dinar exchange rate was a full point firmer at 0.27358/68 to the dollar from 0.27478/88 on Thursday, reflecting the dollar's decline on international exchange markets. Commercial banks quoted spot rates of around 0.27358/65.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal deposit rates firmed at the short end of the market in a brief flurry of activity early in the day sparked by tightness in day-to-day funds.

Dealers said short-term maturities continued to firm as banks covered themselves ahead of the traditionally quiet Muslim holy month of Ramadan, expected to start today.

Some business was also reported in one and two-month deposits as banks borrowed funds for arbitrage deals.

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KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE

COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET FINANCIAL SECTOR P-CLS LT HIGH LOW VOL TRADE

BANK SECTOR	P-CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	0.870	0.870	0.870	0.870	5000	1
GULF BANK	0.325	0.325	0.325	0.325	110000	6
COMMERCIAL BK	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	20000	1
ARLT BANK	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	40000	3
B.K.M.E	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	20000	1
K.R.E.B	0.380	—	—	—	—	—
BURGAN BANK	0.256	0.254	0.254	0.254	20000	1
K.F. HOUSE	0.405	0.410	0.410	0.410	20000	2
INVESTMENT SECTOR	—	—	—	—	—	—
KMT INV. CO.	0.168	—	—	—	—	—
K.F.T.C.I.C	0.210	—	—	—	—	—
K.I.I.C	0.152	—	—	—	—	—
COM. FACILITIES	0.380	—	—	—	—	—
ANHLAH INV.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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KUWAIT City, Opp GPO next to Hardees, Mahamad Al Rabiya Bldg, Flat 3. A single room on 1st floor for Goan bachelors from 1st May. Tele. L. Pereira, 2441496, 9 am - 12 noon. (AT2-41890-3)

CONTENTS of furnished flat for sale including Elepian A 7-1/2 octave upright electric piano with loud/soft pedals, KD350 also JVC Hi Fi, KD300. Tele. 3940580 ext 205, any time. (AT2-41888-3)

NISSAN Liberta, 1984 model, hatchback, fully automatic, with sunroof, AC, stereo, in perfect condition. KD250 to owner and KD48 X 18 to company. Tele. 4884490, after 3 pm. (AT2-41898-3)

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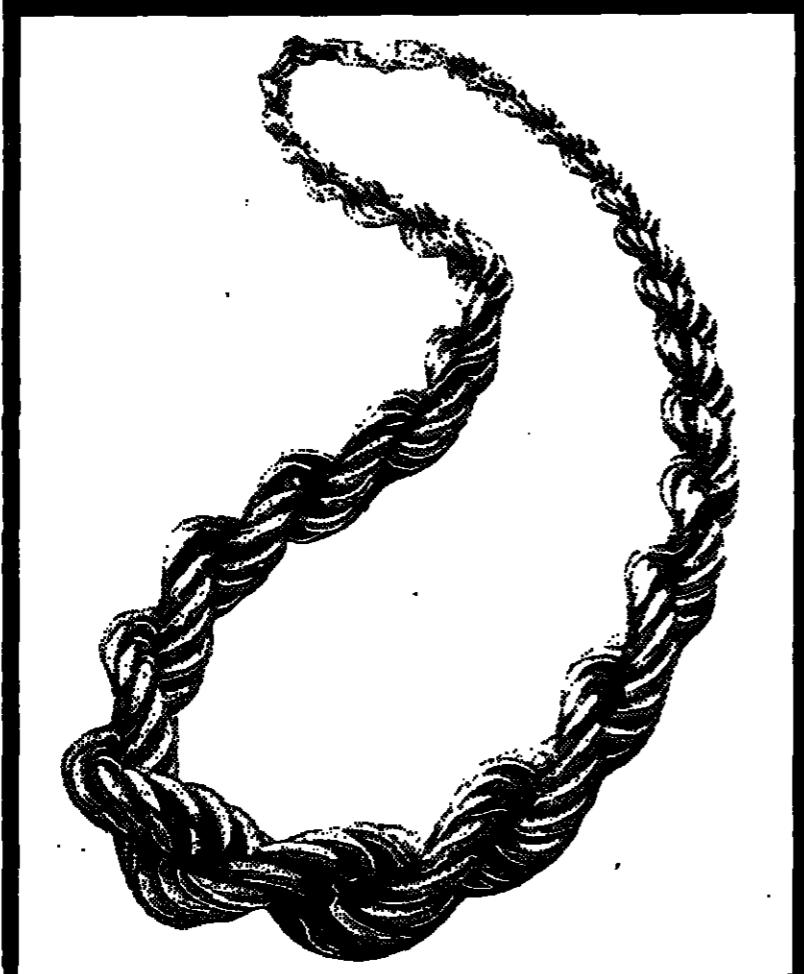
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3. Advertisements must not exceed 25 words including name and telephone number.

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5. Advertisements of personal nature involving business transactions will not be accepted, nor any matrimonial advertisements.

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Jo Molaro

Frost and Couples share lead

HILTON HEAD, S.C., April 16. (Reuter): South Africa's David Frost and American Fred Couples took advantage of ideal weather and course conditions yesterday to share the second round lead of the \$700,000 Heritage Golf Classic.

Frost shot a seven-under-par 64 and couples posted a 65 on the 6,657-yard Harbour Town Golf Links for totals of nine-under-par 133.

First round co-leader Greg Norman of Australia birdied two of his last three holes to end an uneven two-under-par round and was a stroke off the pace. Scott Hoch and Curt Byrum were tied with Norman at eight-under-par 63.

Paul Azinger, who was tied for the first round lead, was another stroke back at seven-under-par after shooting a 70. He was level with Chip Beck, Gil Morgan, Calvin Peete and Jim Hallett, who tied Jack Nicklaus and South African Nick Price's course record with a brilliant eight-under-par 63.

Attracted

Hallett birdied the par-four third hole to reach even-par, then attacked the course with birdies on six, seven, nine, 12, 13, 16 and 17.

"This has to go up there as one of my biggest thrills in golf," said the US tour rookie. "I played too conservative the first day but today I just played aggressive and it paid off."

Bronx Sandy Lyle, in search of his third consecutive title following victory at the Greater Greensboro Open and last week's final hole masters win, struggled again yesterday and was at even-par 142.

South Africa's Gary Player in 1978 was the last golfer to win three straight tournaments on the US Tour.

Zokol takes Canada past Venezuela

MONTREAL, April 16. (Reuter): Richard Zokol yesterday led Canada to a 3-0 victory over Venezuela in the \$100,000 Dunhill Cup, America's qualifying tournament at the Half Moon Golf Club here.

Zokol began his round with an eagle and three birdies for a four-under-par 68 to easily beat Ramon Munoz by eight strokes.

"I have been practising a relaxed and calming approach recommended to me by Richard Lonneta, a professor in Toronto," Zokol said after his victory.

Extremely

His teammates, Dave Barrand and Dan Halldorson, also won comfortably despite extremely windy conditions.

Mexico was upset by Brazil when Feliciano Esparza lost a tie-breaking sudden death play-off.

Esparza topped a fairway shot at the first extra hole and then hooked into a bunker to take six leaving Antonio Nascento a winner with a par-5.

Four-way tie in Centinela golf tourney

LOS ANGELES, April 16. (Reuter): Amy Alcott overcame a terrible start yesterday to record a three-under-par 69 that was good enough for a share of first place at the \$400,000 Centinela Hospital Classic.

Patty Rizzo, Shelly Hamlin and Kelly Leadbetter were all tied with Alcott after the first round of this 54-hole event.

Struggled

Juli Inkster, Spain's Marta Figueras-Dotti, Nina Foust and Lynn Adams were all one stroke behind the leaders at two-under-par 70. Nine players were another stroke back at one-under 71.

Alcott, who two weeks ago won the Dinah Shore Classic, the first major tournament on the US Women's Tour schedule, struggled early as she recorded three bogeys on her first four holes.

"I had a tough start," said Alcott.

Minoza takes 3-shot lead

SEOUL, April 16. (Reuter): Frankie Minoza of the Philippines shot a sparkling five-under-par 67 today, to take a three-stroke lead after the third round of the \$140,000 South Korean Open golf tournament.

Minoza, whose last Asian Tour victory was in the 1986 Indonesian Open, carded an eagle and five birdies as he stormed past overnight leader Rick Gibson of Canada.

Gibson slumped with a 75 for a total of 215, six shots off the pace. "If I keep my cool I should take the title," said Minoza, whose nearest challenger is South Korean Park Yean-Tae, who had a 69 for 212.

GILBERT AND MAYOTTE OUT OF JAPANESE GP

McEnroe to meet Edberg in final



McEnroe: impressive victory

TOKYO, April 16. (Reuter): John McEnroe provided further evidence that he can still be a major force in men's tennis today when he beat American Brad Gilbert to reach the final of the Japanese Grand Prix.

Though McEnroe was some way short of his vintage best in winning 5-3 0-6 6-4, it was an impressive victory against Gilbert, who is currently ranked 15 places above him in the world rankings at number 10.

Rusty

But his seven-month lay-off due to suspension and injury left him noticeably rusty at times — especially in the second set — and McEnroe will have to be measurably sharper against Stefan Edberg in tomorrow's final.

The top-seeded Swede, ranked third in the world behind Ivan Lendl and compatriot Mats Wilander, scored an impressive 6-2 6-2 win over American Tim Mayotte in the other semifinal.

McEnroe's absence from the circuit has seen his ranking slip to 25th — the first time he has been out of the top 20 since 1977 — but his form and improved court

behaviour in this \$617,500 event suggest this latest comeback could be a stunning success.

"It was a hard-fought, exciting match," McEnroe said after his victory over Gilbert, adding with a touch of his old defiance: "The better man won."

Neither McEnroe nor Gilbert could find any consistent accuracy with their services and both men were broken repeatedly, more result of poor serving than punishing returns.

Despite carrying a nagging ankle injury, Gilbert succeeding in capturing McEnroe's serve a remarkable total of eight times in the match, an unthinkable occurrence when the 29-year-old was at the peak of his powers.

After winning four games in a row at the start of the first set, McEnroe's early dominance disappeared. "I got off to a great start. God knows what happened," he said. "I lost my edge at 4-0 and Gilbert started to make things happen."

But McEnroe quickly put the second set debacle behind him by capturing Gilbert's serve to love

in the opening game of the third set and always held the initiative thereafter.

Though McEnroe has lost only once to Edberg in the past, the 22-year-old Swede is now firmly established in the world's top three and McEnroe admitted: "It's a different situation now ... though going in as the underdog might help. But I certainly can't afford to serve like I did today."

Many tennis judges expect Edberg, twice winner of the Australian Open championship, to become world number one in future years, but the young Swede remains wary of McEnroe's special talent.

Watch

"To me he will always be a great player. He's tough with a lot of experience. You have to watch out for him, that's for sure," Edberg said.

The Swede, who dropped serve just once against the powerful but predictable Mayotte, was justifiably satisfied with his semifinal performance. "It was a lot easier than I expected. I played well and with a lot of confidence," he added.



Gilbert: will attempt to halt Graf's march

Graf and Navratilova sail into semifinals

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla., April 16. (Reuter): World number one Steffi Graf and number two Martina Navratilova stayed on course for a showdown in tomorrow's tennis final as they crushed their quarterfinal opponents yesterday in under an hour.

The top-seeded Graf ousted sixth seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-2 6-0 in 55 minutes, while Navratilova, seeded second, needed one minute less to dismantle unseeded fellow American Kathleen Horvath 6-3 6-1.

Need

The \$300,000 clay court tournament proceeded on form as third seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and fourth-seeded West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch also reached the semifinals.

Sabatini, who will attempt to halt Graf's march to the final, needed just 50 minutes to eliminate unseeded American Michelle Torres 6-1 6-1.

Navratilova will next face Kohde-Kilsch, a 6-3, 6-2 winner

over fifth-seeded American Zina Garrison.

Graf was in control throughout her match despite dropping the first and fifth games of the first set to Maleeva. The 18-year-old West German relinquished just 10 points in seven service games as she repeatedly set up easy forehand winners with her first serve.

Graf, who has not played Navratilova since losing the US Open final last September, said she would not make the mistake of looking past Sabatini, who beat the West German for the first time last month.

Eager

"She's (Sabatini) number five and she beat me the last time. I'm much more eager this time," said Graf.

Navratilova despatched Horvath by coming in behind her first serve. She also broke Horvath, 42 in the world, once in the first set and three times in the second set.

Sabatini was equally impressive in her baseline match with Torres.

Cavaliers end Celtics 8-game winning streak

Nets have lost 13 of their last 14 and their last 12 in a row.

Pistons 92, Bucks 91:

Reserve forward Dennis Rodman scored 14 of his 18 points in the second half to lead the Detroit Pistons to their fifth victory in six games, 92-91 over Milwaukee.

The victory was the Cavaliers' eighth in their last 10 National Basketball Association games and gave them a 3-2 edge over Boston in the season series, Cleveland's first series win over the Celtics since 1977-78.

Larry Bird led Boston with 30 points.

Bulls 100, Nets 99:

Michael Jordan scored 28 points, including a jumper with 20 seconds to play, to give the Chicago Bulls their fourth straight victory, a 100-99 win

over the New Jersey Nets.

Jordan, the NBA's leading scorer with 34.7 points per game, had eight points in the fourth quarter. His game-winning basket came when he hit a shot over Nets centre Tim McCormick.

The victory was Chicago's sixth in a row on the road. The

Results

Cleveland 120 Boston 109

Chicago 100 New Jersey 99

Atlanta 103 Philadelphia 101

Detroit 92 Milwaukee 91

Washington 106 New York 97

San Antonio 110 Sacramento 112

Denver 132 Houston 125

LA Lakers 137 Chicago 132

Portland 115 Golden State 114

Seattle 115 Dallas 113

GS 88

are held by two consistent drivers. Ayan and Al Nasser are both easily capable of following Hilal's suit and taking the championship through solid placings and tenacity.

In the navigator's championship however, Klaus Schwingenschloegl maintains his lead, adding two points to his previous score to make a total of 57 points. Hanan Chihab was unable to navigate for her husband in this event, and has 54 points. Otherwise the Navigator's Championship is identical on scoring with the Driver's Championship.

Standings in the National Championship after 3 rounds:

	R1	R2	R3	T
Faiz Chihab	16	36	14	68
Josef Miskulinig	7	48	10	65
Tareq Al Nasser	14	33	24	50
Eid Falah	2	16	24	42
Nouri Al Hasawi	8	20	36	64
Almud Al Hilal	34	4	20	58
Jamal Marafi	24	2	26	52
Tareq Al Wazzan	19	4	25	48
Mohd Al Hussaini	2	4	19	25

always assuming that his problems are behind him, still sail on to win the championship.

All this means that the championship is still very much up in the air, and that a driver like Wazzan, who has suffered two poor results due to car problems, could drop both results, and

The third and fourth positions

are held by two consistent drivers. Ayan and Al Nasser are both easily capable of following Hilal's suit and taking the championship through solid placings and tenacity.

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Almud Al Hilal	34	4	20	58
Jamal Marafi	24	2	26	52
Tareq Al Wazzan	19	4	25	48
Mohd Al Hussaini	2	4	19	25

Paris-Dakar Rally

PARIS, April 16. (Reuter): French team Peugeot, whose win in the Paris-Dakar Rally in January was soured by disqualification of their defending champion, said yesterday they would compete again in the next edition of the controversial race.

Juha Kankunen gained Peugeot's second straight victory after fellow Finn Ari Vatanen, the 1986 champion, had been disqualified following the theft of his car.

Kuwait National Championship remains wide open

By Gail Seery

ALTHOUGH Friday's Kuwait local rally can be considered to have included quite a few surprises, it has not significantly altered the National Championship standings. With the non-part

SPORTS

IMRAN TAKES ALL FOUR WICKETS

Richards, Hooper rescue W. Indies

PART OF SPAIN. Trinidad, April 16. (Reuters): Captain Viv Richards and Carl Hooper led a West Indies recovery on the third day of the second cricket Test against Pakistan today, taking their side to a lead of 143 at lunch.

Richards, 66 not out, and Hooper, 22 not out, came together after Richie Richardson was caught behind off the final ball of the first over of the day.

They put on 82 in 113 minutes in a fifth wicket stand that took West Indies to 163 for four at the interval in their second innings.

Edged

West Indies, resuming at 78 for three, lost Richardson for 40 when he edged a wide delivery from Pakistani captain Imran Khan.

Imran, who took all four wickets, led a public show of dissent when he lost a confident leg before appeal against Richards.

Imran refused to walk back to his mark and remonstrated loudly with umpire Clyde Cummbaugh. Three minutes elapsed, with Salim Yousuf and Javed Miandad getting involved in the argument, before Imran bowled the next ball.

The West Indies captain, looking a little rusty after a month's absence from the game, had a number of other near misses including a possible catching



Richards: leads W. Indies recovery

Earlier on Pakistan were all out for 194.

Pakistan owed their first

innings lead of 20 almost entirely to Salim Malik and Salim Yousuf, who came together at 68-7 and were not parted until they had added 94 crucial runs.

With Pakistan 55-5 overnight, Ijaz Ahmed and Imran had both been dismissed before five overs

had been completed. Winston Benjamin dug one in short to Ijaz who fended the ball over Gus Logie's head at short leg only to see the tiny Trinidadian scamper back to take a brilliant running catch.

Imran was similarly undone by a short ball speared into his ribs by Malcolm Marshall. Logie accepted a dolly catch at short leg.

The Malik-Yousuf partnership was by some way the biggest of the match so far. Yousuf, now arguably the best wicketkeeper-batsman in the world ahead of the currently inconsistent Dujon, was missed by his opposite number off Marshall on only three. He went on to make a vital 39.

Malik's composed and priceless knock of 66 off 99 balls with eight fours was immensely frustrating to a West Indian attack, lacking a specialist spinner.

Ironically, it was Carl Hooper's occasional off-spin that accounted for Malik, who was caught off bat/pad at short leg giving Logie his third catch of the day.

A last wicket stand of 24 between Wasim Akram and Abdul Qadir gave Pakistan a first-innings lead that appeared so improbable when Marshall was at full throttle in the morning.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings 174

(V. Richards 49, Imran Khan four for 38, Abdul Qadir four for 83)

PAKISTAN first innings (overnight 55 for five)

Rameez Raja c Richardson b Marshall

Mudassar Nazar c Haynes b Marshall

Shoaib Mohammad c Richards b Ambrose

Javed Miandad b Benjamin

Ijaz Ahmed c Logie b Benjamin

Salim Malik c Logie b Hooper

Ejaz Ahmed c Logie b Benjamin

Imran Khan c Logie b Marshall

Salim Yousuf c Dujon b Marshall

Wasim Akram run out

Abdul Qadir not out

Extras (1-1 b-4 nb-8)

Total (all out)

Fall of wickets: 1-3 2-25 3-46 4-49

5-50 6-62 7-68 8-162 9-170

194

55 6-62 7-68 8-162 9-170

IAAF want BAAB to ban Budd for one year

LONDON, April 16. (Reuters): Zola Budd faces a 12-month ban from all competition following a meeting of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) council today.

The council said Budd had breached the spirit of the rules of the IAAF and, although it stopped short of imposing the ban itself, urged the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) to do so with immediate effect.

If not, the world governing body said it would "consider the matter further."

Responded

IAAF secretary John Holt said the BAAB had been asked not to allow Budd to compete internationally over the next four weeks until the board had responded to their queries.

He went on: "Having regard to the interests of international athletics, the council is of the view the BAAB ought to consider a suspension from international athletics of at least 12 months beginning today."

An IAAF statement added: "If the BAAB fails to take such action as is necessary the council will have to consider exercising its suspensive powers against the BAAB. It will also consider the matter of Miss Budd further."

The IAAF said Budd, born in South Africa but a British citizen, had breached one of their rules by 'taking part' in an athletics meeting in the republic last year.

The 23-strong council, after deliberating for nearly seven hours, said it was unhappy at the way Budd's conduct had been 'regulated.'

The IAAF statement went on: "It was clear Miss Budd greatly exceeded the bounds of being a mere spectator at a cross-country meeting at Brakpan, South Africa."

"Not only was she there in her training gear, but she trained on and near the course in full view of the crowd and at one stage by her own admission actually ran alongside ineligible runners in order to support them."

"The council is particularly concerned by Miss Budd's fraternal



Budd: faces ban

SPORTS BRIEFS

Leconte wins

NICE, France, April 16. (AP): Henri Leconte survived a match point to rally to beat top-seeded Andrei Chesnokov, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, in the semifinal of the \$145,000 Swatch Open today.

Madrid tennis

MADRID, Spain, April 16. (AP): Top-seeded Kent Carlsson of Sweden and Fernando Llana of Spain won their semifinal matches in the \$93,000 Madrid tennis tournament at the Club de Campo today.

Monaco beaten

SAINT-ETIENNE, France, April 16. (Reuters): Saint-Etienne sent French First Division leaders Monaco tumbling to a 3-0 defeat yesterday Friday without their goals in the last half hour.

French Open

PARIS, April 16. (Reuters): All the world's top 20 men except American David Pate have entered the singles in the French Open tennis tournament starting on May 23, organisers said yesterday.

British players

GLASGOW, Scotland, April 16. (AP): Two of Britain's top soccer players were considering today whether to appeal their convictions stemming from a fight during a match between two archrival clubs, Terry Butcher and Chris Woods, members of the Glasgow Rangers who also play for England's national team, were found guilty yesterday of disorderly conduct and breach of the peace in fights during last October's 2-2 draw with crosstown foe Celtic.

Dutch defender

PARIS, April 16. (UPI): Dutch international defender Sonny Silooy, who suffered a fractured bone in his face when a teammate accidentally kicked him during a match, underwent surgery yesterday and may not be able to play in the European Championships in June.

Asian Cup

KUALA LUMPUR, April 16. (AP): Jordan held Japan to a 1-1 draw on the eighth day of the Asian Cup qualifying round today. Japan led 1-0 at halftime. Scorers: Japan -- Yusuke Minoguchi (5th min); Jordan -- Ibrahim Sa'adeya (62nd).

Cannes Open

CANNES, France, April 16. (Reuters): American Ron Compton produced three birdies in the last eight holes to preserve his lead in the third round of the \$200,000 Cannes Open golf championship today.

Crescent Classic

NEW ORLEANS, April 16. (AP): Matthew Motshawe of Botswana ran 10 kilometres from Jackson Square in the French quarter to Audubon Park in uptown in 27 minutes; 53 seconds to win the men's division of the 10th annual Crescent City Classic today. Lynn Nelson of Phoenix, Arizona, took the women's division by finishing in 32:15.

Frost upset

KRISTIANSAND, Norway, April 16. (AP): The pupil beat his idol and teacher for the first time today when Darren Hall of England upset 30-year-old title defender Morten Frost of Denmark to win the men's singles title of the 1988 European Badminton Championships.

Werder open gap at top

BONN, April 16. (Reuters): Werder Bremen put recent disappointment behind them to creep closer to the West German soccer championship title today as their main rivals, Bayern Munich, stumbled to an unexpected 2-1 defeat.

The Werder players, who dropped out of the West German Cup when they lost 1-0 to Eintracht Frankfurt on Wednesday, heeded the advice of trainer Otto Rehagel in beating bottom-placed FC Homburg 3-0 to move six points clear at the top of the First Division.

"The Cup tie against Frankfurt sent us reeling a bit," Rehagel said. "I told the team to play it quiet calmly — like a chess game. We had to wait for the goal chances to materialise."

Those chances fell to Frank Neubarth, Gunnar Sauer and Karl-Heinz Riedle.

Bridge

RESULTS of the Shekara Bridge Club marathon game held on Friday.

1. Dhruva Mukherjee & Sayan Choudhury
2. Hussein Fazal & D.K. Nagji
3. Ady Tial & Magdi Meidan
4. Mrs. Douna Matherly & K.L. Simon
5. Sadiq Dousra & Peter Fernandez
6. Dr. Shanta Reddy & Gregory Lataia

Tranmere beat Wimbledon and Newcastle

Celtic fail to clinch Scottish title

LONDON, April 16. (Reuters):

Glasgow Celtic failed to secure the one point they needed to clinch their 35th Scottish League title when they were beaten 2-1 at nearest challengers Hearts today.

With the English League programme blank because of the special centenary festival tournament at Wembley, Celtic had the spotlight to themselves.

But Hearts, whose Scottish Cup ambitions were shattered by a 2-1 semifinal defeat at the hands of Celtic last week, took their revenge by wrecking the Glasgow club's party.

The result ended an unbeaten run by Celtic of 31 games and they now have to wait another week to try again for the single point they still need.

Denied

Hearts can catch Celtic by winning their last three games, but to be denied the title Celtic would have to lose all three of their own while surrendering the eight-goal difference advantage they currently enjoy over Hearts.

Yesterday, Watford kept alive their slim hopes of avoiding relegation from the English First Division with a surprise 1-0 away win over League Cup finalists Arsenal.

The result lifted Watford off the bottom and above Oxford on goal difference, but they must still win their three remaining games to stand any chance of staying up.

Their winner came from Rick Holden 14 minutes from the end of a drab match. It was his second goal for the club since his transfer from Fourth Division Halifax just before last month's transfer deadline.

Watford, and goalkeeper

Tony Coton in particular, had spent most of the game soaking up pressure from an Arsenal side looking for a morale-boosting win in their last match before meeting Luton in the League Cup final at Wembley on April 24.

Arsenal will be without Ireland international David O'Leary for the final.

Manager George Graham said after yesterday's game that the experienced central defender would go into hospital next week for an operation on the Achilles tendon which has troubled him since Christmas.

Results

Scottish Premier Division

Dundee 4 Falkirk 2

Newcastle 2 St Mirren 1

Hearts 2 Celtic 1

Morton 1 Ayr 1

Motherwell 4 Dundee U 2

Rangers 1 Hibernian 1

Scottish Division One

Airdrie 1 Raith 2

Clydebank 0 Kilmarnock 0

East Fife 1 Meadowbank 0

Forfar 0 Partick 0

Queen of S 0 Dunbarton 0

Scottish Division Two

Alloa 1 Ayr 3

E. Stirling 0 Stirling 3

Forfar 0 Brechin 0

Queen's Park 1 Cowdenbeath 0

St Johnstone 4 Arbroath 0

St Johnstone 2 Brechin 0

Stranraer 2 Albion 2

Division One

Ayr 22 11 8 6 5 34 55

Meadowbank 20 11 6 5 3 34 54

Clydebank 19 6 5 3 2 57 44

Raith 18 7 6 5 2 58 43

Airdrie 15 13 6 3 61 43

Forfar 13 16 6 12 62 58 41

Partick 16 9 6 59 40 51

Queen's Park 12 11 7 1 31 67 32

Clydebank 11 11 19 49 56 33

Alloa 12 11 5 21 77 42 38

Meadowbank 10 13 54 60 33

St Johnstone 9 11 16 41 70 29

Stranraer 8 12 16 36 65 28

Brechin 5 4 27 27 71 14

Stranraer 3 8 25 31 77 14</p